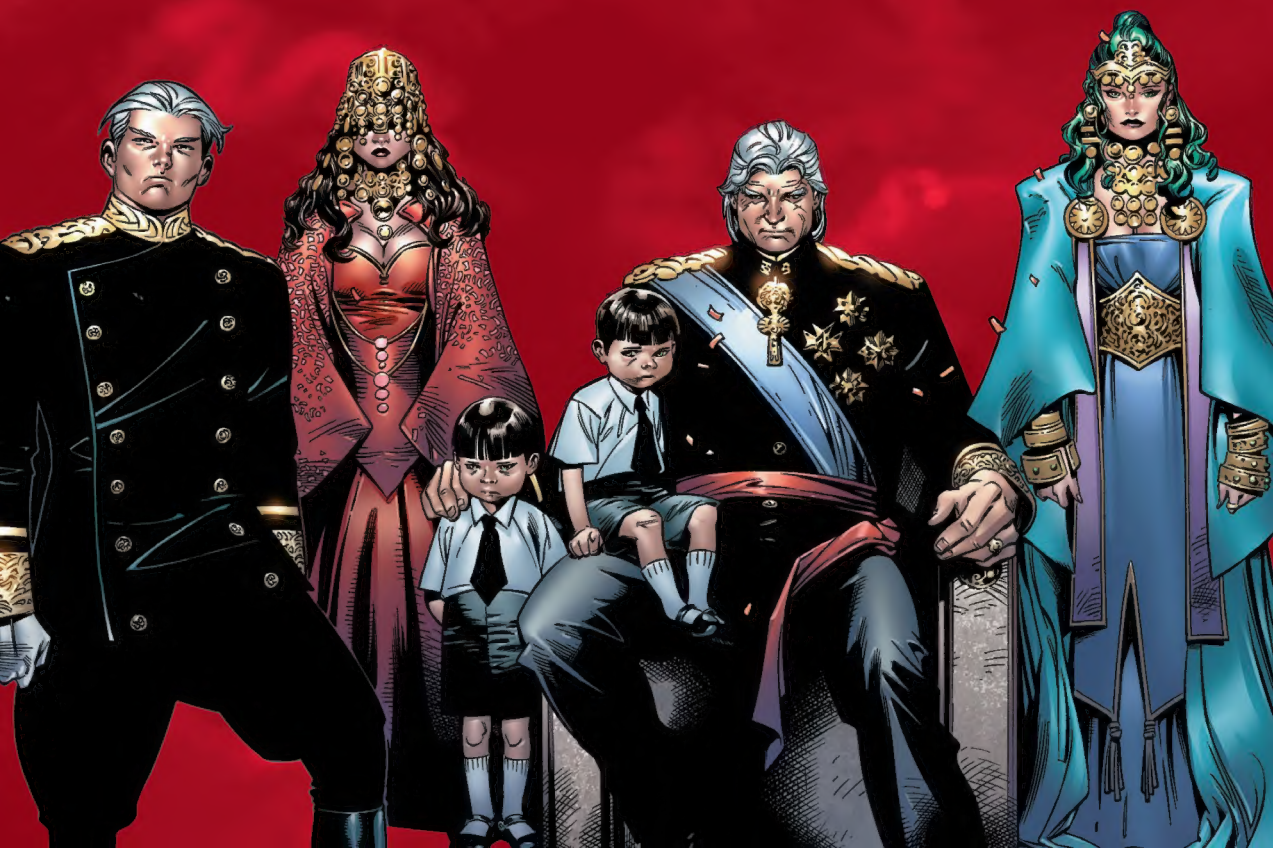
"*House of M* marked the start of an entire epoch in the Marvel Universe."
— *Newsarama*

HOUSE OF M

MARVEL

BENDIS · COIPEL

HOUSE OF M



HOUSE OF M #1-8
WRITER: BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
PENCILER: OLIVIER COIPEL
INKERS: TIM TOWNSEND WITH RICK MAGYAR (#4, #6), SCOTT HANNA (#6-8) & JOHN DELL (#7-8)
COLORISTS: FRANK D'ARMATA WITH PAUL MOUNTS (#7)
LETTERER: CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
COVER ART: ESAD RIBIĆ

SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #1-5
WRITERS: MARK WAID & TOM PEYER
PENCILER: SALVADOR LARROCA
INKER: DANNY MIKI
COLORIST: LIQUID!
LETTERER: VC's CORY PETIT
COVER ART: SALVADOR LARROCA, DANNY MIKI & LIQUID! (#1-3 & #5); SALVADOR LARROCA & PACO ROCA (#4)

NEW THUNDERBOLTS #11
WRITER: FABIAN NICIEZA
PENCILER: TOM GRUMMETT
INKER: GARY ERSKINE
COLORIST: SOTOCOLOR'S J. BROWN
LETTERER: RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE
COVER ART: TOM GRUMMETT

FANTASTIC FOUR: HOUSE OF M #1-3
WRITER: JOHN LAYMAN
PENCILER: SCOT EATON
INKERS: DON HILLSMAN II WITH RICK MAGYAR (#3)
COLORISTS: DEAN WHITE WITH AVALON'S ROB RO (#3)
LETTERERS: VC'S CORY PETIT (#1-2) & RANDY GENTILE (#3)
COVER ART: SCOT EATON WITH RICHARD ISANOVE (#1) & DEAN WHITE (#2)

BLACK PANTHER #7
WRITER: REGINALD HUDLIN
PENCILER: TREVOR HAIRSINE
INKER: JOHN DELL
COLORIST: DEAN WHITE
LETTERER: VC'S RANDY GENTILE
COVER ART: KAARE ANDREWS

UNCANNY X-MEN #462-463
WRITER: CHRIS CLAREMONT
PENCILER: ALAN DAVIS
INKER: MARK FARMER
COLORIST: AVALON'S MATT MILLA
LETTERERS: VC'S RUS WOOTON (#462) & CHRIS ELIOPOULOS (#463)
COVER ART: ALAN DAVIS & MARK FARMER WITH CHRIS CHUCKRY (#462) & DEAN WHITE (#463)

UNCANNY X-MEN #464-465
WRITER: CHRIS CLAREMONT
PENCILER: CHRIS BACHALO
INKERS: MARK IRWIN, JAIME MENDOZA, VICTOR OLAZABA, NORM RAPMUND & AL VEY WITH SANDU FLOREA, JON HOLDREDGE, SEAN PARSONS & TIM TOWNSEND (#465)
COLORIST: STUDIO F
LETTERER: VC's CORY PETIT
COVER ART: CHRIS BACHALO & TIM TOWNSEND

WOLVERINE #33-35
WRITER: DANIEL WAY
BREAKDOWNS: JAVIER SALTARES
FINISHER: MARK TEXEIRA
COLORIST: PAUL MOUNTS
LETTERERS: VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA (#33) & RANDY GENTILE (#34-35)
COVER ART: JOE QUESADA, DANNY MIKI & RICHARD ISANOVE (#33); KAARE ANDREWS (#34-35)

IRON MAN: HOUSE OF M #1-3
WRITER: GREG PAK
PENCILER: PAT LEE
INKER & COLORIST: DREAM ENGINE
LETTERER: VC's RUS WOOTON
COVER ART: PAT LEE

CAPTAIN AMERICA #10
WRITER: ED BRUBAKER
PENCILS/BREAKDOWNS: LEE WEEKS
INKERS (pp.1-11): JESSE DELPERDANG WITH LEE WEEKS
FINISHER (pp.12-22): MIKE PERKINS
COLORIST: AVALON'S MATT MILLA
LETTERER: VC's RANDY GENTILE
COVER ART: LEE WEEKS & FRANK D'ARMATA

THE PULSE #10
WRITER: BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
BREAKDOWNS: MICHAEL LARK
FINISHER: STEFANO GUADIANO
COLORIST: PETE PANTAZIS
LETTERER: VC's CORY PETIT
COVER ART: MIKE MAYHEW & AVALON'S ANDY TROY

CABLE & DEADPOOL #17
WRITER: FABIAN NICIEZA
PENCILER: PATCH ZIRCHER
INKER: UDON'S M3TH
COLORIST: GOTHAM STUDIOS
LETTERER: VC's CORY PETIT
COVER ART: PATCH ZIRCHER, UDON'S M3TH & PAUL MOUNTS

INCREDIBLE HULK #83-86
WRITER: PETER DAVID
ARTIST: JORGE LUCAS
COLORISTS: JAVI MONTES (#83-84) AND IMPACTO STUDIOS' CARLOS LOPEZ & WILLIAM MURAI (#85-86)
LETTERERS: VC's RANDY GENTILE (#83-85) & RUS WOOTON (#86)
COVER ART: ANDY BRASE & FRANK D'ARMATA
SPECIAL THANKS TO RACHAEL SMITH

INCREDIBLE HULK #87
WRITER: PETER DAVID
PENCILER: ADAM KUBERT
INKERS: JOHN DELL, SCOTT HANNA & ADAM KUBERT
COLORIST: IMPACTO STUDIOS' WILLIAM MURAI
LETTERER: VC's RANDY GENTILE
COVER ART: ADAM KUBERT & LAURA MARTIN

HULK: BROKEN WORLDS BOOK ONE
WRITER: FRED VAN LENTE
ARTIST: CLAYTON HENRY
COLORIST: EMILY WARREN
LETTERER: VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
COVER ART: MARK BROOKS

NEW X-MEN #16-19
WRITERS: NUNZIO DEFILIPPIS & CHRISTINA WEIR
PENCILER: AARON LOPRESTI
INKER: BRAD VANCATA
COLORISTS: PETE PANTAZIS (#16-18) & TOM CHU (#17, #19)
LETTERER: DAVE SHARPE
COVER ART: AARON LOPRESTI, TIM TOWNSEND & PETE PANTAZIS (#16-18); AARON LOPRESTI, NORM RAPMUND & TOM CHU (#19)

EXILES #69-71
WRITER: TONY BEDARD
PENCILER: PAUL PELLETIER
INKERS: RICK MAGYAR WITH DREW HENNESSY & DAVE MEIKIS (#70-71)
COLORIST: WIL QUINTANA
LETTERER: DAVE SHARPE
COVER ART: PAUL PELLETIER

MUTOPIA X #1-5
WRITER: DAVID HINE
PENCILER: LAN MEDINA
INKER: ALEJANDRO "BOY" SICAT
COLORIST: AVALON'S DAVE KEMP
LETTERER: RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S JIMMY BETANCOURT
COVER ART: ANDY PARK

DECIMATION: HOUSE OF M — THE DAY AFTER
WRITER: CHRIS CLAREMONT
PENCILERS: RANDY GREEN WITH AARON LOPRESTI
INKERS: ROB HUNTER WITH NORM RAPMUND & DON HILLSMAN II
COLORISTS: LARRY MOLINAR WITH AVALON'S ANDY TROY
LETTERER: VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY
COVER ART: RANDY GREEN, ROB HUNTER & LAURA MARTIN

GIANT-SIZE MS. MARVEL #1
WRITER: BRIAN REED
PENCILER: ROBERTO DE LA TORRE
INKER: JIMMY PALMIOTTI
COLORIST: CHRIS SOTOMAYOR
LETTERER: DAVE SHARPE
COVER ART: ROBERTO DE LA TORRE, CAM SMITH & MORRY HOLLOWELL

THE PULSE: HOUSE OF M SPECIAL
WRITERS: BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS, ED BRUBAKER, CHRIS CLAREMONT, PETER DAVID, NUNZIO DEFILIPPIS, DAVID HINE, REGINALD HUDLIN, JOHN LAYMAN, FABIAN NICIEZA, GREG PAK, TOM PEYER, DANIEL WAY & CHRISTINA WEIR
ARTIST: MIKE MAYHEW
COLORIST: AVALON STUDIOS
DESIGNER: PATRICK MCGRATH
COVER ART: MIKE MAYHEW & AVALON STUDIOS

SECRETS OF THE HOUSE OF M
WRITER: MIKE RAICHT
INSPIRATION: BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
SELECT COLORING: CHRIS SOTOMAYOR
CONSULTANTS: JEFF CHRISTIANSEN, STUART VANDAL, MICHAEL HOSKIN & SEAN MCQUAID
DESIGNER: CARRIE BEADLE
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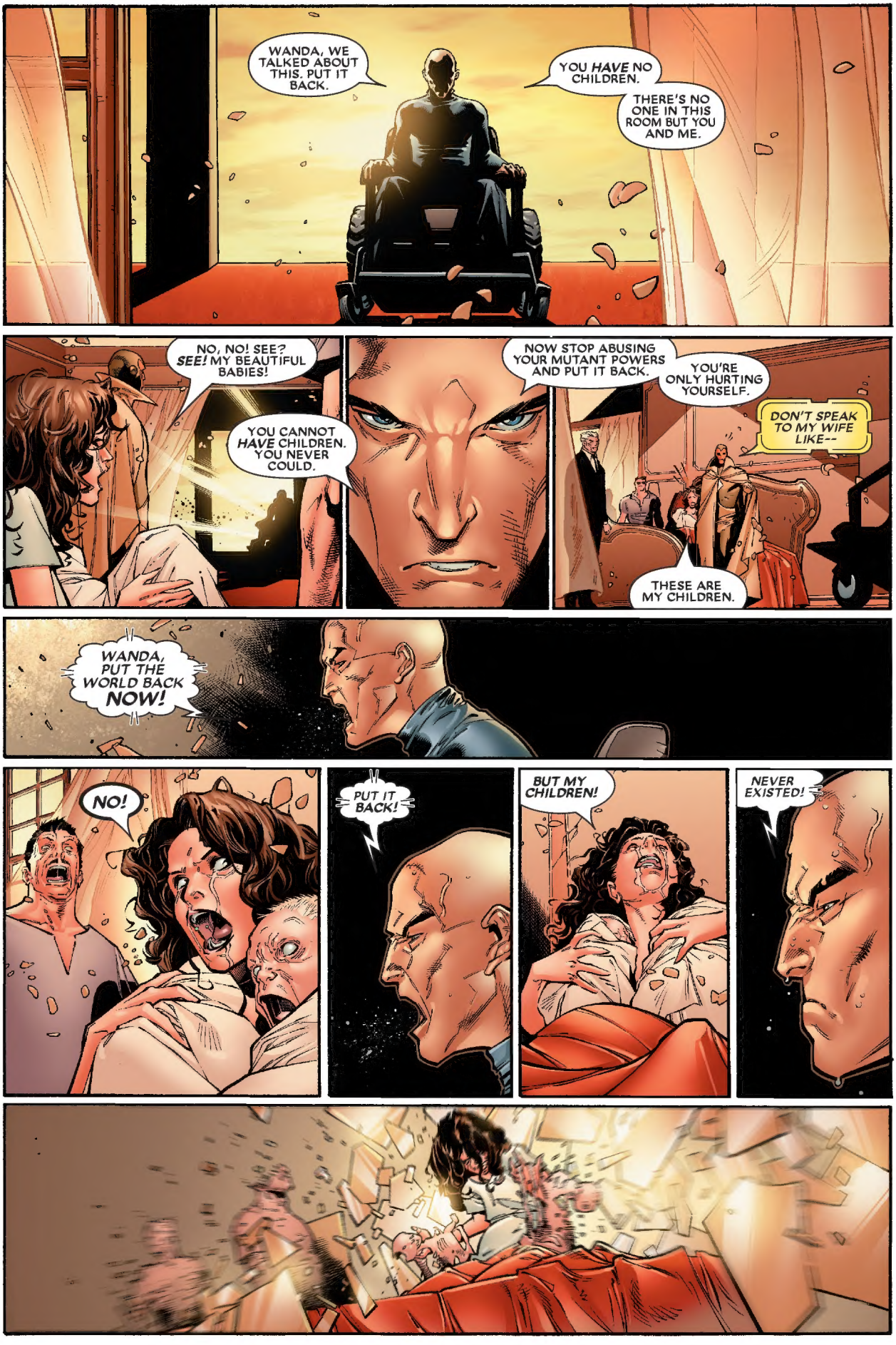
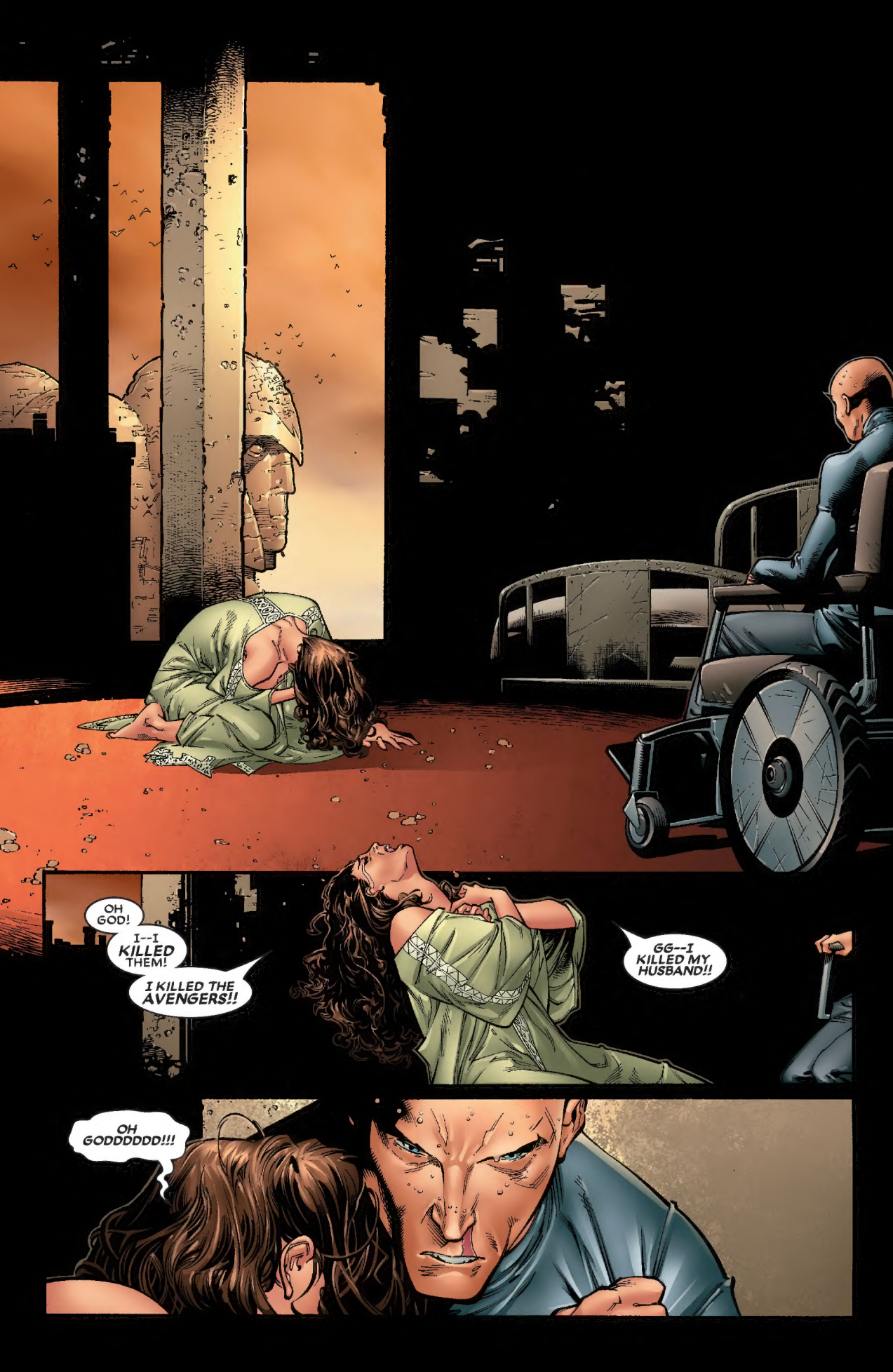
HOUSE OF M #1

AGH!
NNN...
AARRGGH!
ALMOST THERE...
OH GOD!!!
HERE THEY COME! HERE THEY COME!!

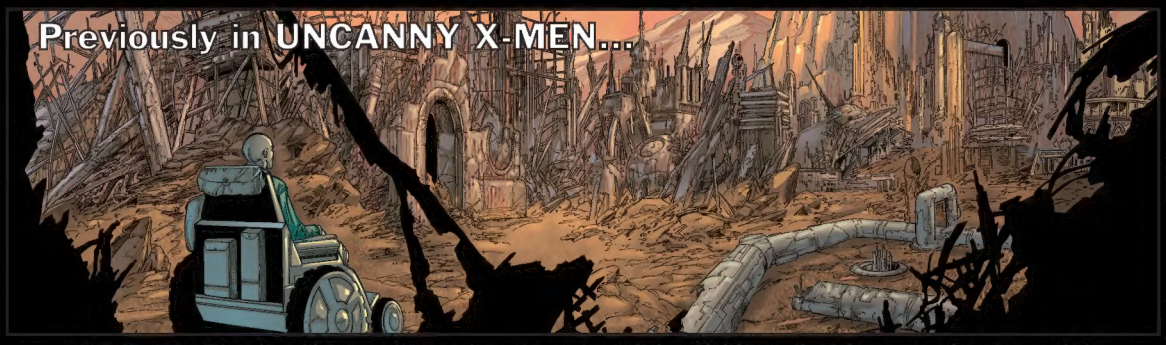
TWINS!
WANDA, YOU GAVE BIRTH TO TWO HEALTHY, HAPPY, BEAUTIFUL TWINS!
TWINS!!
DID YOU HEAR THAT, MY HUSBAND? TWINS!
THIS IS A GLORIOUS DAY.
NOW PUT IT BACK.


WANDA, WE TALKED ABOUT THIS. PUT IT BACK.
YOU *HAVE* NO CHILDREN.
THERE'S NO ONE IN THIS ROOM BUT YOU AND ME.
NO, NO! SEE? *SEE!* MY BEAUTIFUL BABIES!
YOU CANNOT *HAVE* CHILDREN. YOU NEVER COULD.
NOW STOP ABUSING YOUR MUTANT POWERS AND PUT IT BACK.
YOU'RE ONLY HURTING YOURSELF.
DON'T SPEAK TO MY WIFE LIKE--
THESE ARE MY CHILDREN.
WANDA, PUT THE WORLD BACK *NOW!*
NO!
PUT IT BACK!
BUT MY CHILDREN!
NEVER EXISTED!

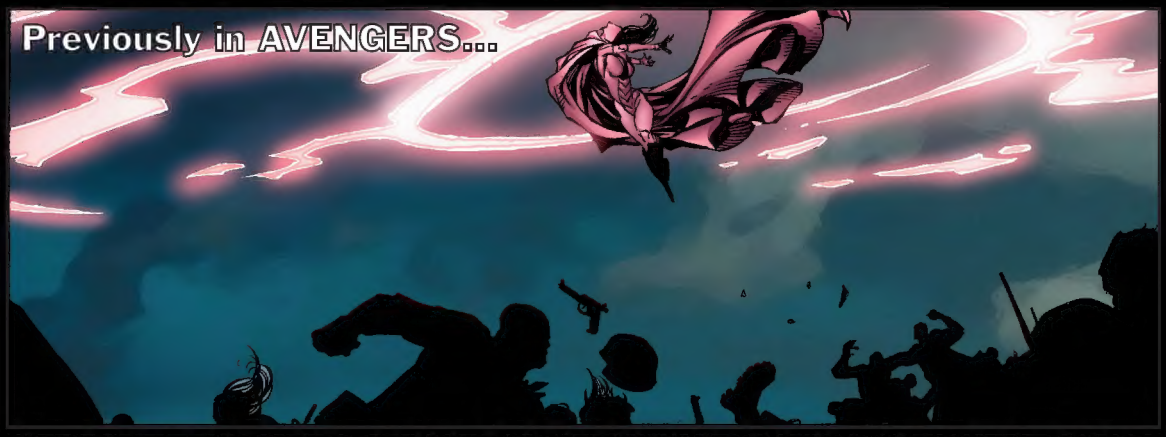

OH GOD!
I--I KILLED THEM!
I KILLED THE AVENGERS!!
GG--I KILLED MY HUSBAND!!
OH GODDDDDD!!!

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

Born with strange powers, the mutants known as the X-MEN use their awesome abilities to protect a world that hates and fears them!



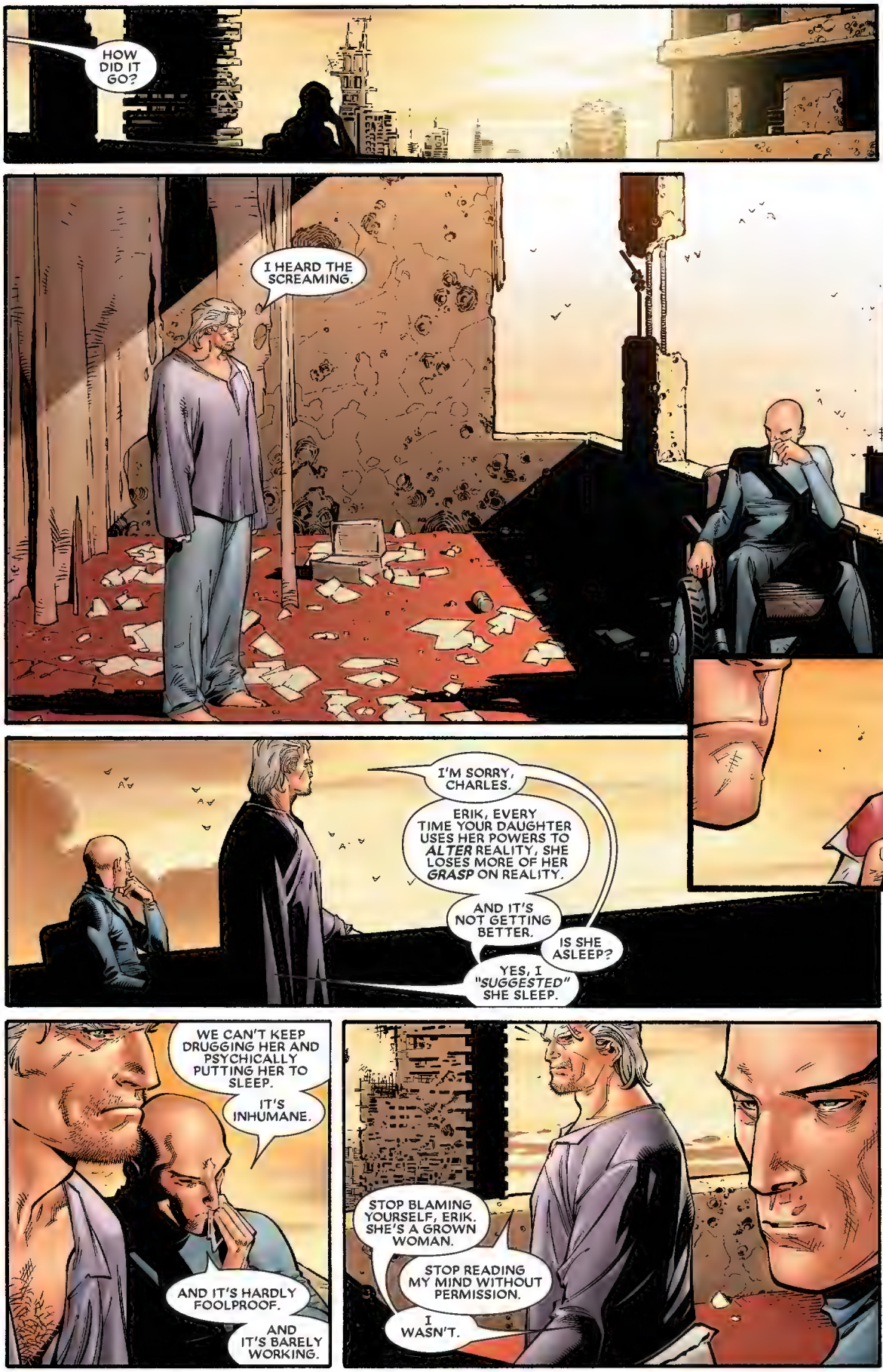
Professor Charles Xavier--legendary founder of the X-Men who dreams of a peaceful coexistence between humans and mutants--has come to Genosha with one intention: to rebuild a mutant nation from its devastated ashes.

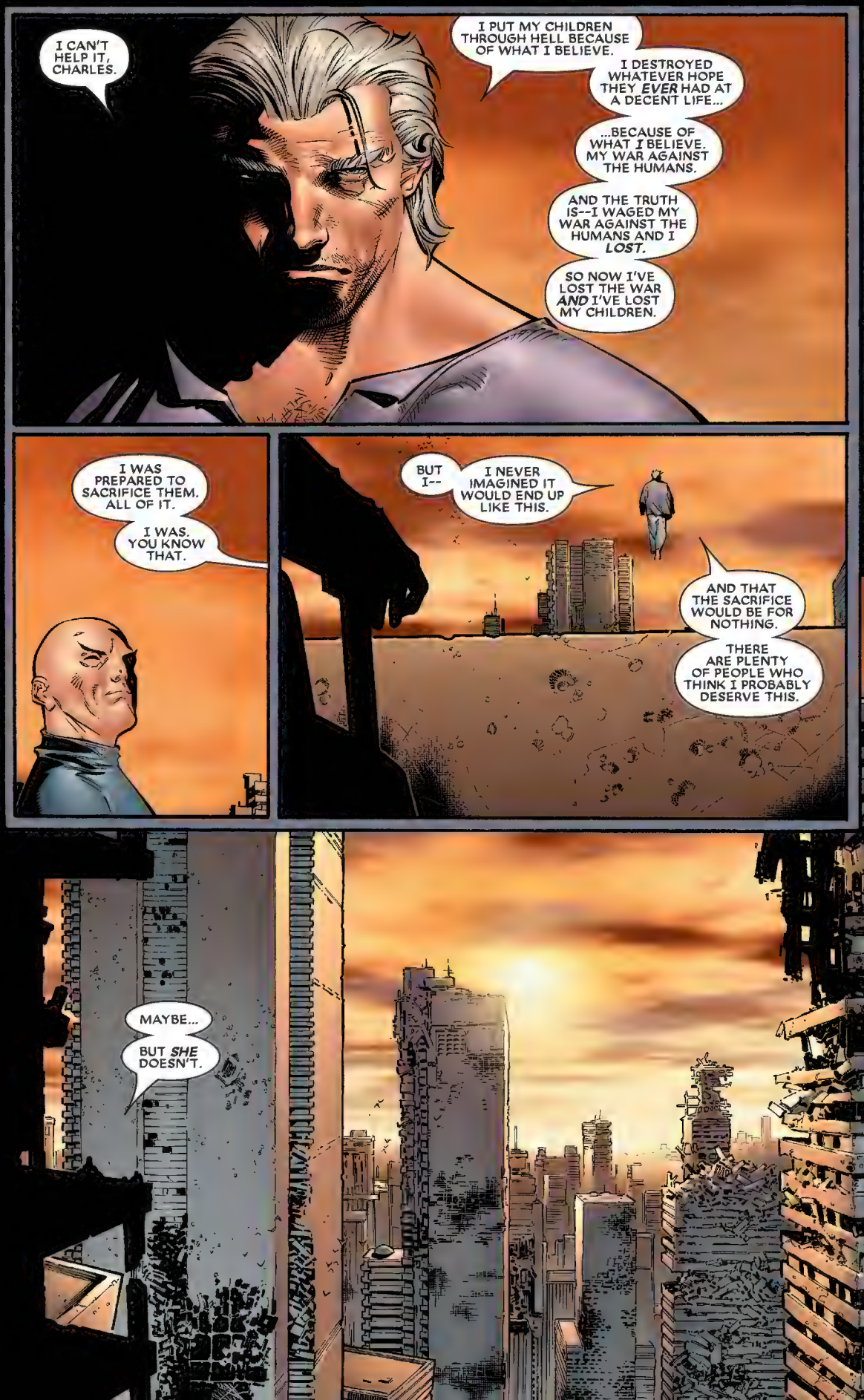


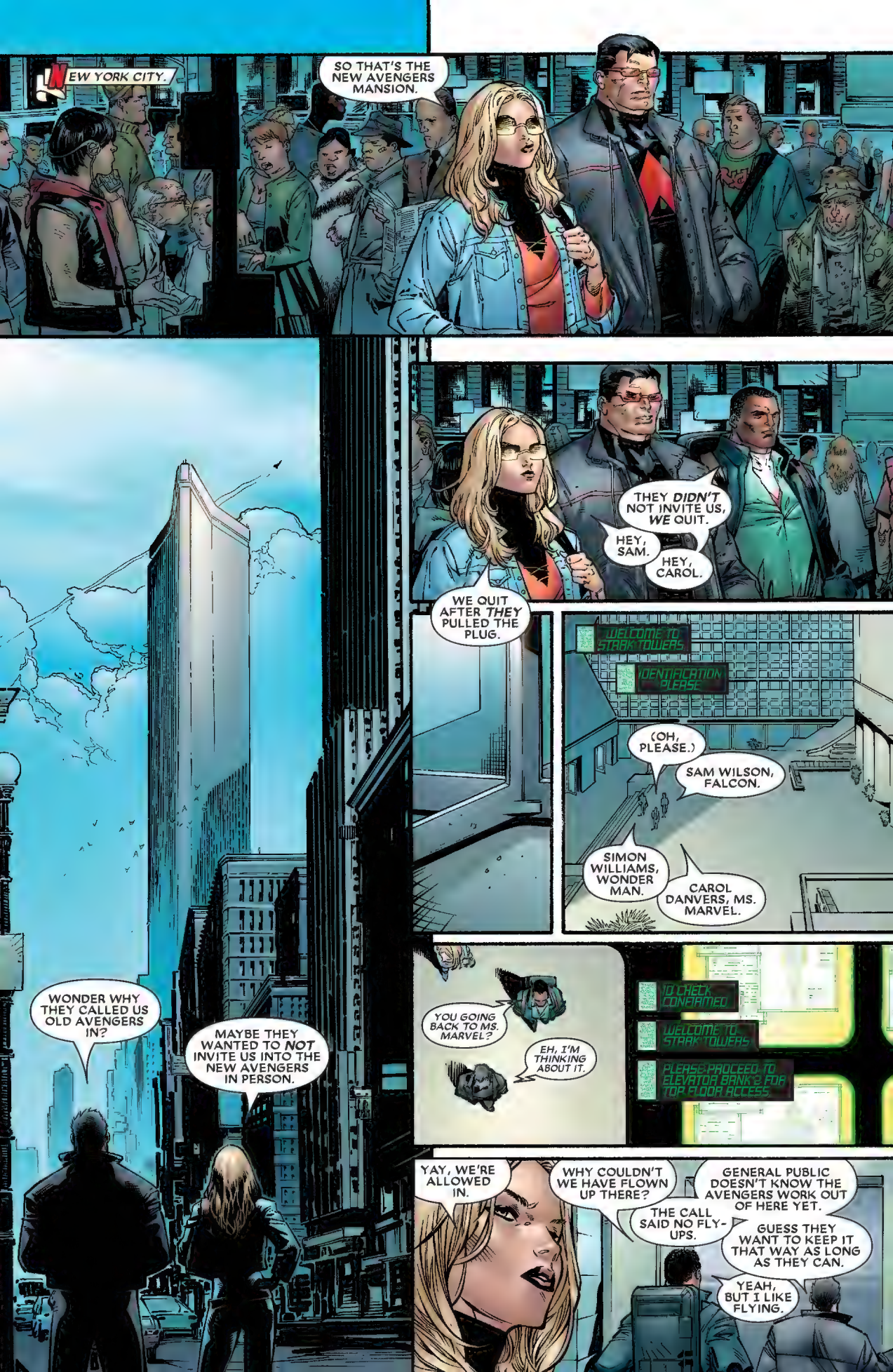
It was the worst day in Avengers history. The Scarlet Witch suffered a total nervous breakdown after losing control of her reality-altering powers. In the chaos created around the breakdown, beloved Avengers Hawkeye, Ant-Man and the Vision lost their lives. Many of the other Avengers were hurt, both emotionally and physically.

That was six months ago.

HOUSE OF M


HOW DID IT GO?
I HEARD THE SCREAMING.
I'M SORRY, CHARLES.
ERIK, EVERY TIME YOUR DAUGHTER USES HER POWERS TO *ALTER* REALITY, SHE LOSES MORE OF HER *GRASP* ON REALITY.
AND IT'S NOT GETTING BETTER.
IS SHE ASLEEP?
YES, I "*SUGGESTED*" SHE SLEEP.
WE CAN'T KEEP DRUGGING HER AND PSYCHICALLY PUTTING HER TO SLEEP.
IT'S INHUMANE.
AND IT'S HARDLY FOOLPROOF.
AND IT'S BARELY WORKING.
STOP BLAMING YOURSELF, ERIK. SHE'S A GROWN WOMAN.
STOP READING MY MIND WITHOUT PERMISSION.
I WASN'T.


I CAN'T HELP IT, CHARLES.
I PUT MY CHILDREN THROUGH HELL BECAUSE OF WHAT I BELIEVE.
I DESTROYED WHATEVER HOPE THEY *EVER* HAD AT A DECENT LIFE...
...BECAUSE OF WHAT *I* BELIEVE. MY WAR AGAINST THE HUMANS.
AND THE TRUTH IS--I WAGED MY WAR AGAINST THE HUMANS AND I *LOST*.
SO NOW I'VE LOST THE WAR *AND* I'VE LOST MY CHILDREN.
I WAS PREPARED TO SACRIFICE THEM. ALL OF IT.
I WAS. YOU KNOW THAT.
BUT I--
I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD END UP LIKE THIS.
AND THAT THE SACRIFICE WOULD BE FOR NOTHING.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO THINK I PROBABLY DESERVE THIS.
MAYBE...
BUT *SHE* DOESN'T.


NEW YORK CITY.
SO THAT'S THE NEW AVENGERS MANSION.
THEY DIDN'T NOT INVITE US, WE QUIT.
HEY, SAM.
HEY, CAROL.
WE QUIT AFTER THEY PULLED THE PLUG.
WELCOME TO STARK TOWERS.
IDENTIFICATION PLEASE.
(OH, PLEASE.)
SAM WILSON, FALCON.
SIMON WILLIAMS, WONDER MAN.
CAROL DANVERS, MS. MARVEL.
WONDER WHY THEY CALLED US OLD AVENGERS IN?
MAYBE THEY WANTED TO NOT INVITE US INTO THE NEW AVENGERS IN PERSON.
YOU GOING BACK TO MS. MARVEL?
EH, I'M THINKING ABOUT IT.
ID CHECK CONFIRMED.
WELCOME TO STARK TOWERS.
PLEASE PROCEED TO ELEVATOR BANK 2 FOR TOP FLOOR ACCESS.
YAY, WE'RE ALLOWED IN.
WHY COULDN'T WE HAVE FLOWN UP THERE?
THE CALL SAID NO FLY-UPS.
GENERAL PUBLIC DOESN'T KNOW THE AVENGERS WORK OUT OF HERE YET.
GUESS THEY WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY AS LONG AS THEY CAN.
YEAH, BUT I LIKE FLYING.

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S IT?
WELL, IT'S THE ONLY SKYSCRAPER WITH AN AVENGERS QUINJET.
THAT'S IT.
MMM. MMM. MMM.
LOOK AT THAT THING.
WHAT?
THE NEW QUINJET MODEL. THAT IS GORGEOUS.
HANK McCOY IS A JEALOUS LITTLE GIRL.
TONY STARK HAS ALL THE MONEY.
GENTLEMEN, MASTER LOGAN AND THE X-MEN HAVE ARRIVED.
LOGAN, IF YOU KNOW WHY THESE AVENGERS OF YOURS CALLED US HERE, THEN JUST TELL--
WE'RE HERE. YA CAN'T WAIT FOUR MORE SECONDS?
OH MY GOD...

X-MEN.

PROFESSOR!

KITTY.

I HATED HOW THINGS ENDED BETWEEN US--

YOU MADE IT QUITE CLEAR YOU WEREN'T GOING TO BE INVOLVING YOURSELF WITH US, AND YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY NICE ABOUT IT.

YES. WELL, OBVIOUSLY, SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAS COME UP.

WHAT *ARE* YOU DOING HERE?

EMMA, WHAT IS IT?

JUST LET THE PROFESSOR TELL YOU.

I HAVE MADE THIS SPECIAL TRIP TO NEW YORK TO DISCUSS WITH YOU AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE MATTER.

WE NEED TO DECIDE THE FATE OF WANDA MAXIMOFF.

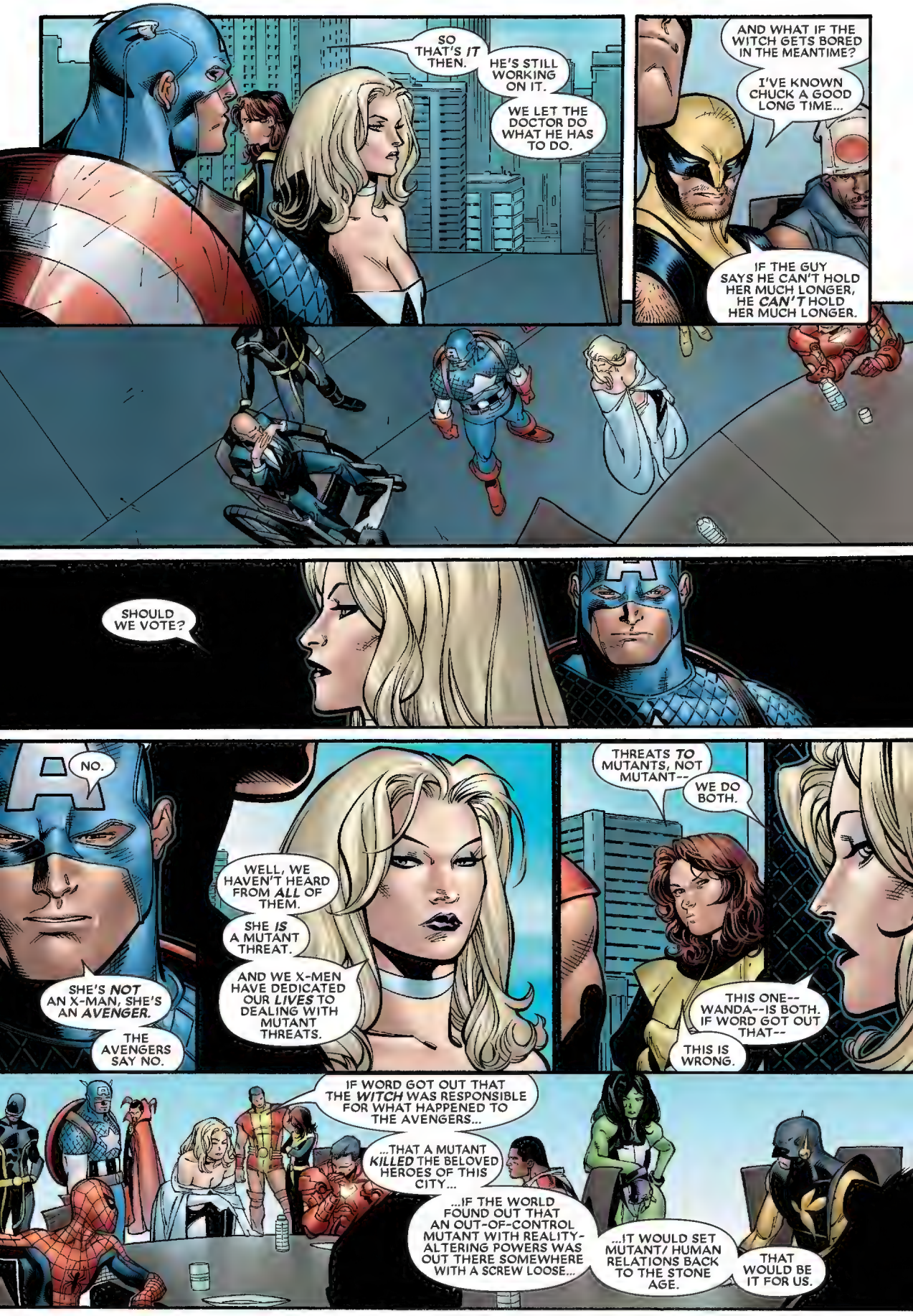
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, PIETRO?
WHAT?
THEY'RE GOING TO *KILL* HER.

THEY ARE GOING TO KILL HER!
XAVIER, THE REST...
ALL THE AVENGERS. ALL THE X-MEN.
THEY ARE MEETING RIGHT NOW IN NEW YORK. I WAS JUST THERE.
THEY ARE AGREEING TO KILL HER. WHY ELSE WOULD THEY MEET?
THEY ARE GOING TO DECIDE THERE IS NO OTHER WAY, AND THEY ARE GOING TO COME HERE AND KILL HER.
MY SISTER!! YOUR OWN DAUGHTER!!
PIETRO...
...THEY MAY BE RIGHT.
I CAN'T--PIETRO, NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU WHEN YOU YELL THAT FAST.
I SWORE UPON MY LIFE TO PROTECT HER!!
FIRST FROM YOU.
AND NOW FROM THEM?
THE AVENGERS WERE OUR FAMILY AND NOW THEY ARE GOING TO KILL HER!!
AND-- AND YOU AGREE??!!
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?!!

THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HER!!
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO??!!
AGGHHUH!

WHAT IS THERE TO SAY?
PUT HER DOWN.
I WON'T EVEN ENTERTAIN THE THOUGHT.
NO!!
PUT HER DOWN? WHAT IS SHE, A DOG?
NO!
EVEN THOUGH THEY JUST SPENT TWENTY MINUTES EXPLAINING THAT THE GIRL'S OUT-TO-LUNCH AND THAT THE WORLD IS IN EVERY KIND OF DANGER *BECAUSE* OF HER?
THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY.
NOT ALWAYS.
ALWAYS!
OKAY, CHARLES, BE HONEST...
YOU'RE THE MOST POWERFUL PSYCHIC MIND ON THE PLANET...
CAN YOU *HELP* HER?

IF I COULD, EMMA, I WOULDN'T BE HERE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION.
DOCTOR STRANGE...IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE MYSTIC ARTS THAT COULD HELP HER--?
I DON'T KNOW.
HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO HELP HER SO FAR?
NO.
HAVE YOU TRIED *EVERYTHING* YOU POSSIBLY CAN?
AT THE MOMENT, YES.
ANYONE ELSE HAVE--?
BUT I *AM* STILL RESEARCHING.

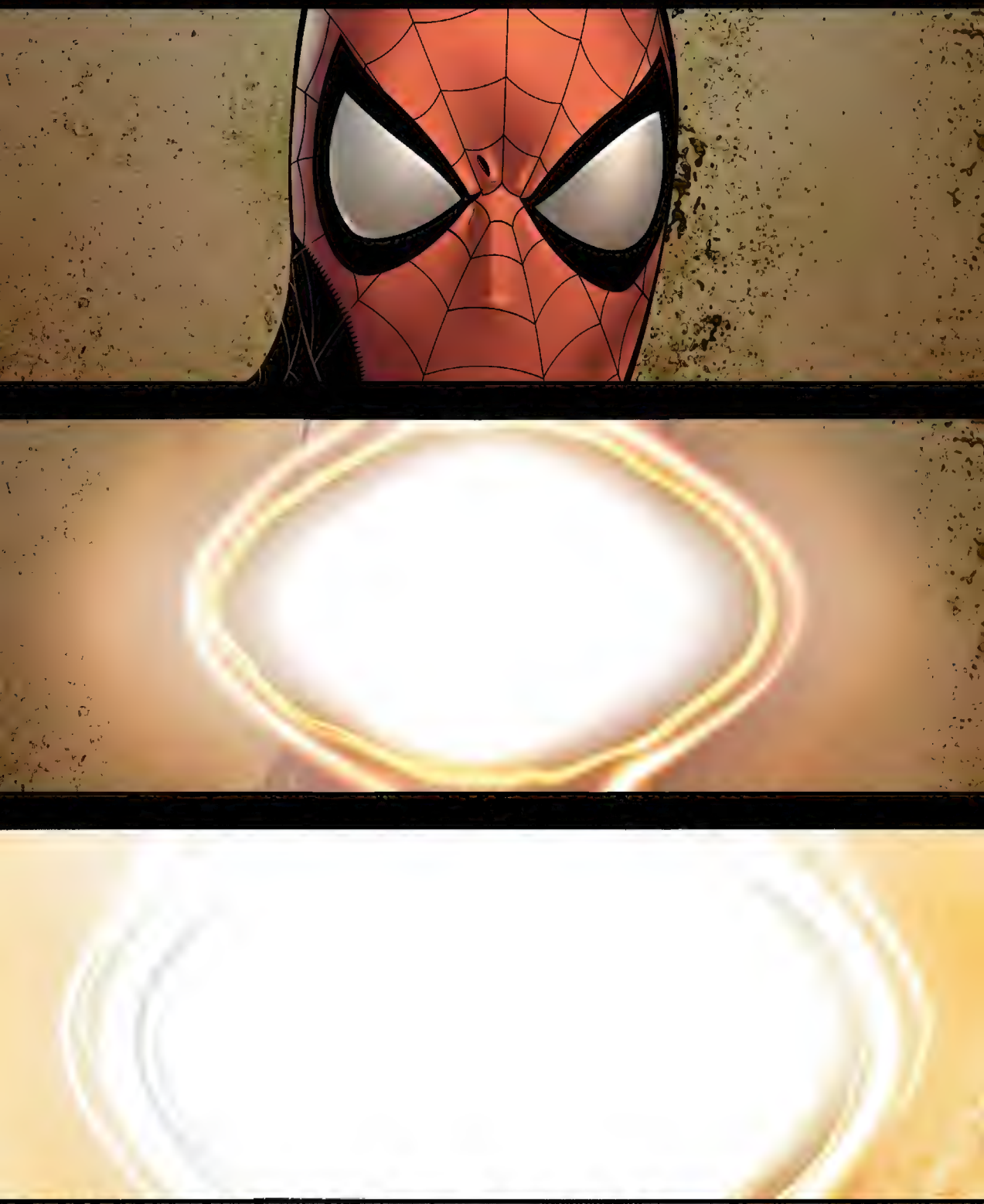

SO THAT'S IT THEN.
HE'S STILL WORKING ON IT.
WE LET THE DOCTOR DO WHAT HE HAS TO DO.
AND WHAT IF THE WITCH GETS BORED IN THE MEANTIME?
I'VE KNOWN CHUCK A GOOD LONG TIME...
IF THE GUY SAYS HE CAN'T HOLD HER MUCH LONGER, HE CAN'T HOLD HER MUCH LONGER.
SHOULD WE VOTE?
NO.
SHE'S NOT AN X-MAN, SHE'S AN AVENGER.
THE AVENGERS SAY NO.
WELL, WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM ALL OF THEM.
SHE IS A MUTANT THREAT.
AND WE X-MEN HAVE DEDICATED OUR LIVES TO DEALING WITH MUTANT THREATS.
THREATS TO MUTANTS, NOT MUTANT--
WE DO BOTH.
THIS ONE--WANDA--IS BOTH. IF WORD GOT OUT THAT--
THIS IS WRONG.
IF WORD GOT OUT THAT THE WITCH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO THE AVENGERS...
...THAT A MUTANT KILLED THE BELOVED HEROES OF THIS CITY...
...IF THE WORLD FOUND OUT THAT AN OUT-OF-CONTROL MUTANT WITH REALITY-ALTERING POWERS WAS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE WITH A SCREW LOOSE...
...IT WOULD SET MUTANT/ HUMAN RELATIONS BACK TO THE STONE AGE.
THAT WOULD BE IT FOR US.

AVENGERS?
I'LL NEVER AGREE TO KILLING HER.
SHE'S AN AVENGER. IT'S OUR CALL.
I AGREE.
SOMEONE DO THE MATH FOR ME...
HOW MANY *MORE* OF YOU DOES SHE HAVE TO KILL BEFORE YOU SNAP OUT OF IT?
JEEZ...
SO, LIKE, IF ANY OF *MY* POWERS WIG OUT ON ME, I CAN COUNT ON YOU TO JUST *KILL* ME?
YEAH.
HOPE I CAN COUNT ON YOU TO DO THE SAME.
PROFESSOR, I CAN'T *BELIEVE* YOU WOULD EVEN ENTERTAIN THIS!
SCOTT--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WANDA WAS LIKE A *SISTER* TO ME.
I NEED TO HEAR WHAT *SHE* WANTS. I NEED TO SEE HER.
JANET'S RIGHT.
ME TOO.
CHARLES? CAN YOU AND MS. FROST PROTECT US FROM WANDA IF THERE'S TROUBLE?
TOGETHER WE CAN.
OY...
I'M NOT GONNA BE HOME FOR DINNER, AM I?

GENOSHA...
I HATE THIS PLACE.
IT AIN'T PARADISE ISLAND.
ALL--ALL I SEE WHEN I SEE THIS PLACE IS...
...THAT *THIS* IS WHAT THE HUMANS WOULD DO TO US.
OKAY, PROFESSOR, LEAD THE WAY.
OH, NO.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
DID MAGNETO MOVE HER?
HE TOOK HER!
SHE'S NOT ON THE ISLAND. I CAN'T "SEE" HER--
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG HERE. PROFESSOR, DO YOU FEEL A--
WE SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE.
NO DUH.
DOCTOR, CAN YOU FIND WANDA WITH YOUR--?
HOW COULD HE? IF THEIR PSYCHIC--
I DON'T KNOW. SOMETHING WITH THE MAGICS OR--
UH, GUYS...
PROFESSOR!
HE WAS RIGHT HERE!
WE REALLY SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE.
EMMA?
FOUND THEM.

LISTEN, IF ANY OF YOU FEEL ANYTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOURSELF, TRY TO TELL US BEFORE IT'S TOO--
AVENGERS, LET EMMA TAKE THE LEAD. WE HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE WITH--
LET'S JUST GRAB XAVIER AND GET OUT OF HERE.
I'M STILL NOT FEELING ANYTHING IN THE MYSTIC PATTERNS.
WANDA'S NOT HERE.
LISTEN, GUYS, I'VE GOT THIS SPIDER-SENSE WHEN THERE'S DANGER AND IT'S NOT GOING OFF, SO I DON'T KNOW IF--
SHE'S RIGHT IN THERE.
LAST TIME SHE USED HER POWERS, SHE WAS CREATING MYSTIC PATTERNS THAT I AM NOT FEELING HERE.
UM...
HELLO?
UH-OH.
EMMA, WHAT ARE YOU READING?
I HAVE NOTHING ON INFRARED.



WAAAH!
WAAGH!
PETER!
NNN...
PETER, IT'S YOUR TURN.
UGH, HOW IS IT MY TURN?
WAAAAGGHH!
COMING!

HOUSE OF M #2

THE BRONX, TODAY

NTM

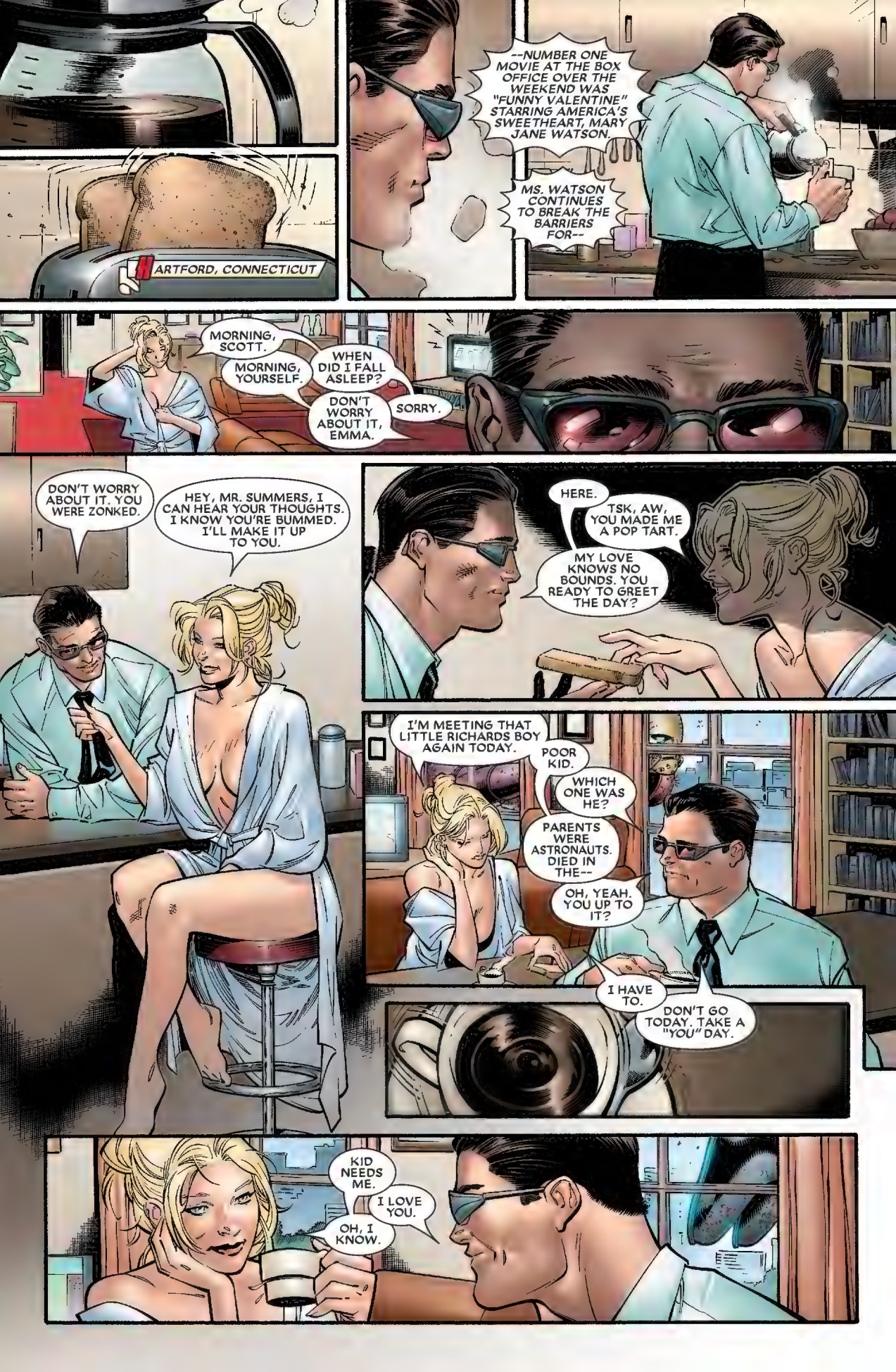
Rogers, Steven, Captain USAF
1189 63rd Ave. Apt. 6b
Bronx, NY 10231

Rogers, Steven, Cap
1189 63rd Ave. Apt. 6b
Bronx, NY 10231

TRIXIE TRASKIE, I GOTTA GET MY BASKIE.

YO GUYS, LOOK.

IT'S THE OLD DUDE.


HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
--NUMBER ONE MOVIE AT THE BOX OFFICE OVER THE WEEKEND WAS "FUNNY VALENTINE" STARRING AMERICA'S SWEETHEART, MARY JANE WATSON.
MS. WATSON CONTINUES TO BREAK THE BARRIERS FOR--
MORNING, SCOTT.
MORNING, YOURSELF.
WHEN DID I FALL ASLEEP?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, EMMA.
SORRY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU WERE ZONKED.
HEY, MR. SUMMERS, I CAN HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS. I KNOW YOU'RE BUMMED. I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU.
HERE.
TSK, AW, YOU MADE ME A POP TART.
MY LOVE KNOWS NO BOUNDS. YOU READY TO GREET THE DAY?
I'M MEETING THAT LITTLE RICHARDS BOY AGAIN TODAY.
POOR KID.
WHICH ONE WAS HE?
PARENTS WERE ASTRONAUTS. DIED IN THE--
OH, YEAH. YOU UP TO IT?
I HAVE TO.
DON'T GO TODAY. TAKE A "YOU" DAY.
KID NEEDS ME.
I LOVE YOU.
OH, I KNOW.

LOS ANGELES
Alison
GOOD MORNING.
OUR FIRST GUEST SHOULD BE VERY FAMILIAR TO YOU AT HOME. HE CAN BE SEEN EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT NINE RIGHT HERE ON NBC.
THAT SHOW, OF COURSE, IS "ME AND MINE" AND ITS STAR...LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...SIMON WILLIAMS.
WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL ENTRANCE.
THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.
OKAY, WE'LL GET TO YOUR SHOW IN A MINUTE, WHICH IS JUST FABULOUS BY THE WAY.
BUT FIRST... I HAVE TO ASK YOU...
NOW, ALISON...
I HAVE TO ASK.
YOU'RE ON THE COVER OF EVERY MAGAZINE IN THE COUNTRY WITH HER.
TELL ME, I'M DYING TO KNOW...
WHAT IS GOING ON WITH YOU AND CAROL DANVERS?
WE'RE VERY GOOD FRIENDS.
SHE'S...A VERY SPECIAL GIRL.

WELL, SIMON, SHE'S ONLY THE MOST POPULAR SUPER HERO IN AMERICA.
AND SHE'S NOT EVEN A...
...YOU KNOW...
WEEEOOOOOWEEEOOOO
REMY!!
HEAD FOR THE PARK, BOYO!
REMY?!!

FOOM
OOF!
HI, GUYS!
SMASH
SALETÉ DE SAPIEN... ME TOUCHE PAS!!
WOW, YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHEN IT'S OVER, DO YOU?

JUST SO YOU'RE CLEAR... IT'S OVER NOW.
KTANG
NYPD
NYPD

CINCINNATI, OHIO
OKAY, LET'S GET INTO IT.
WHO WAS THE *FIRST* MUTANT?
AND DON'T SAY MOSES OR JESUS. I'M TALKING OFFICIALLY.
WHO WAS THE FIRST MUTANT?
UH... WAS IT PRINCE NAMOR?
THAT'S, YES--THAT'S RIGHT.
DID YOU READ THE CHAPTER ALREADY?
NO, MISS PRYDE, MY--MY MOM HAS A KIND OF FIXATION WITH HIM.
OKAY, NAMOR *IS* CONSIDERED THE FIRST MUTANT...
...LET'S TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS HE SAID DURING WORLD WAR TWO AND HOW THEY RELATE TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY...

HELL'S KITCHEN, NEW YORK

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, COP?

YOU LUKE CAGE?

WHY YOU ASKIN' QUESTIONS YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWERS TO? IT'S INSULTING TO BOTH OF US.

WHO ARE *YOU*, BROTHER?

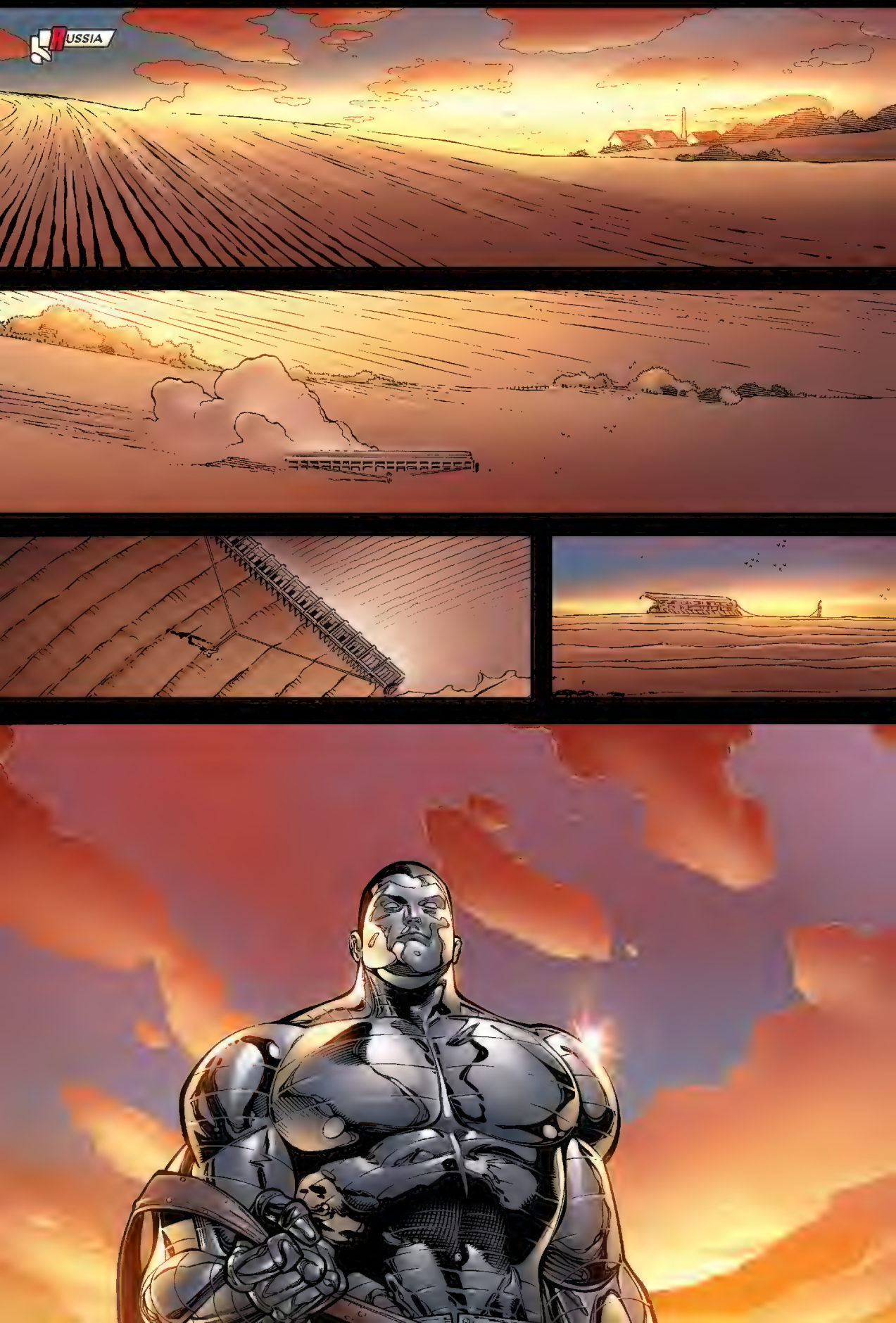
DETECTIVE SAM WILSON.

DAMN, MAN, HOW DOES THAT FEEL?

HOW DOES *WHAT* FEEL?
COME ON...
PUTTIN' A SAPIEN BROTHER IN HELL'S KITCHEN? YOU DON'T FEEL A BIT *USED* BY THE SYSTEM?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO WILSON FISK LAST NIGHT?
HOW MANY PHOTO OPS THEY MAKE YOU DO A WEEK? BEING THE TOKEN SAPIEN.
YOU WANNA DO THIS AT THE STATION?
WHAT *HAPPENED* TO THE KINGPIN? I HAVEN'T TURNED ON A TV. SOMEONE *WHACK* HIM?
SOMEONE BEAT HIM INTO A COMA.
THIS IS FOR WHOEVER DID IT.
CLAP CLAP CLAP
WHERE WERE YOU LAST NIGHT?
SLEEPING.
YOU SHOULD TRY IT...IF YOU CAN STILL DO IT.

Stephen Strange Ph.D. Psychology
ROBERT, DID IT HAPPEN AGAIN?
YES.
I WAS WITH MY BOY.

AND THIS WALL OF BLACK...
...IT JUST DISAPPEARED?
BUT IT WAS THERE.
IT WASN'T-- I KNOW WHAT'S REAL. I'M NOT CRAZY. I KNOW WHAT'S REAL.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANT?
I. DON'T. KNOW.
AND HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?


RUSSIA

CHICAGO

HE'LL *FIRE* YOU, DOCTOR PYM.

HE'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN HE SEES THE RESULTS. HE'LL--

NO, HE WON'T. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT TONY STARK...

DR. McCOY, I DON'T NEED YOU TO--

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT TONY STARK.

HE EXPECTS--BARE MINIMUM--HE EXPECTS THE PEOPLE WHO CASH HIS CHECKS TO DO WHAT HE SAYS.

MY NOTES ON THIS HAVE NOT BEEN READ--

YOU *CANNOT* ISOLATE THE MUTANT GENE. YOU *CANNOT* IDENTIFY IT. MAYBE FIFTY--

MY--

MAYBE FIFTY YEARS AGO. MAYBE AFTER WORLD WAR TWO, BUT NOT NOW.

JUST THE IDEA IS ANTI-MUTANT.

NO! NO, IT'S NOT. IT'S--

IT'LL BE PERCEIVED THAT WAY.

WHO CARES *HOW* IT'S PERCEIVED? I KNOW MY INTENTIONS.

TONY *STARK* PERCEIVES IT THAT WAY.

THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DISCUSS.

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE POLITICAL HIGH WIRE ACT TONY STARK HAS TO WALK EVERY DAY?

HE'S THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SAPIEN IN THE BUSINESS WORLD, AND HE CAN'T RISK YOU WORKING ON A PROJECT THAT IS DEMEANING TO THE IDEA OF HOMO SUPERIOR EVOLUTION.

I KNOW MY--

IT'S REVERSE RACISM, HENRY. IT'S INSULTING.

IT'S LIKE TRYING TO ISOLATE THE ONE THING THAT MAKES BLACK PEOPLE BLACK, OR FILIPINO PEOPLE--

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND MY POINT. WHAT I WANT TO DO IS--

IT'S NOT *ONE* THING, IT'S NOT *ONE* DNA STRAND--

IT'S *MILLIONS* OF THEM WRAPPED TOGETHER IN A--

STOP TALKING DOWN TO ME.

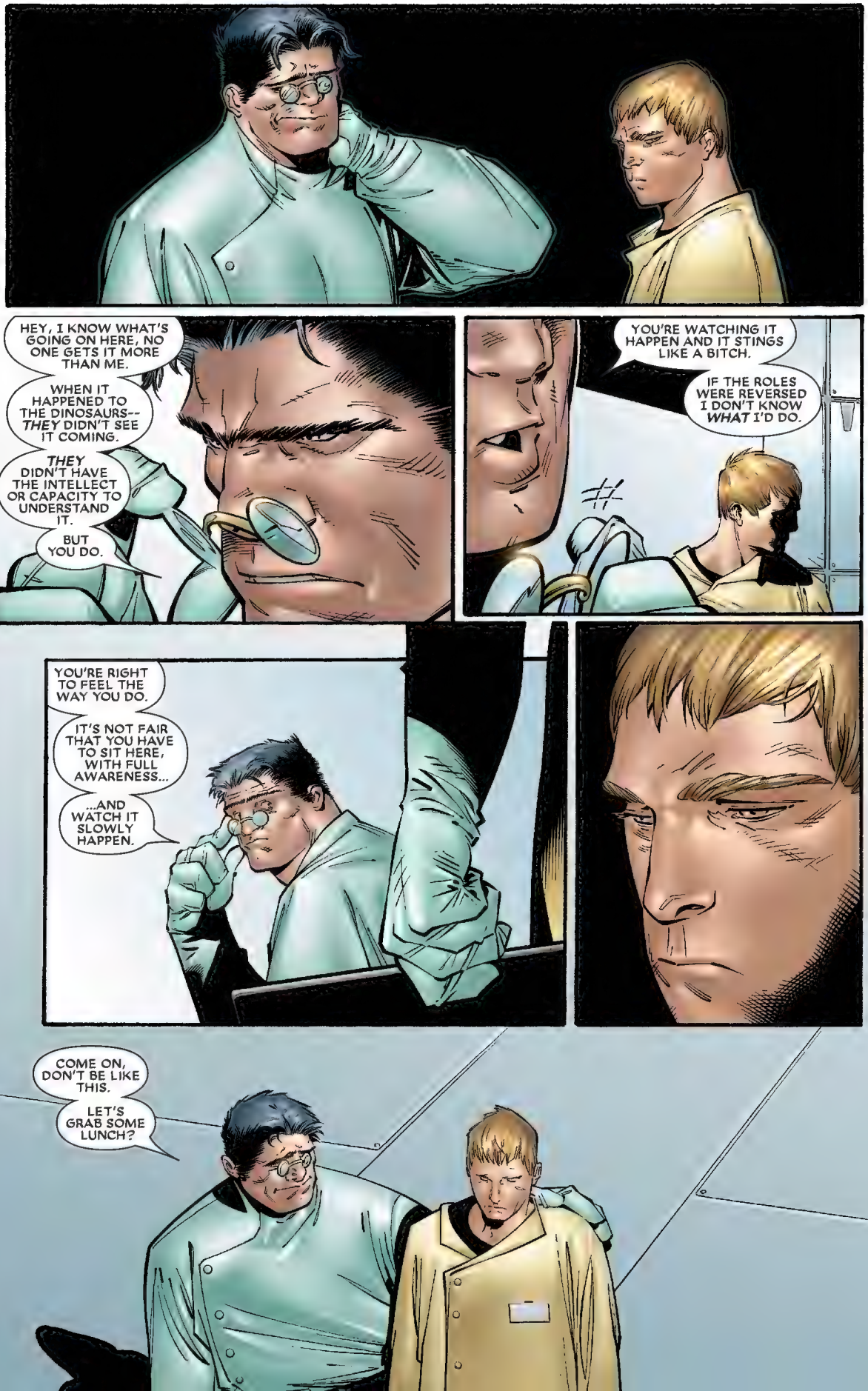
YOU EXPECT TONY STARK TO PAY YOUR BILLS WHEN YOU ARE DOING SOMETHING HE CLEARLY TOLD YOU HE DOES *NOT* WANT TO DO.

I LIKE YOU, HENRY. WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A GOOD LONG TIME....

...BUT YOU *WILL* GET FIRED IF YOU KEEP WORKING ON THIS.

YOU WILL GET FIRED AND YOU WILL BE OUT OF WORK BECAUSE THE SAPIEN SCIENCE MIND IS RUNNING OUT OF PLACES--

DON'T.


HEY, I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, NO ONE GETS IT MORE THAN ME.
WHEN IT HAPPENED TO THE DINOSAURS-- *THEY* DIDN'T SEE IT COMING.
THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE INTELLECT OR CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND IT.
BUT YOU DO.
YOU'RE WATCHING IT HAPPEN AND IT STINGS LIKE A BITCH.
IF THE ROLES WERE REVERSED I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I'D DO.
YOU'RE RIGHT TO FEEL THE WAY YOU DO.
IT'S NOT FAIR THAT YOU HAVE TO SIT HERE, WITH FULL AWARENESS...
...AND WATCH IT SLOWLY HAPPEN.
COME ON, DON'T BE LIKE THIS.
LET'S GRAB SOME LUNCH?

PARIS. FRANCE
I DON'T KNOW, JANET.
ORORO, YOU LOOK AMAZING.
SEE? IT BUNCHES IN FRONT WHEN I SUMMON THE ELEMENTS.
WE CAN TAPE IT.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS WILL BE WEARING?
OF COURSE I DO.
THIS IS AN ELEGANT PIECE THAT I MADE MYSELF. IT ACCENTUATES THE ROYAL FAMILY'S EVENT WITHOUT MAKING TOO MUCH OF A STATEMENT.
I EVEN GOT THE WAKANDAN FABRICS YOU ASKED FOR.
I DON'T KNOW.

NNYYAARRGGHHHHHH
HENH!
MORNING, JAMES.

SNIKT
THE HELL IS THIS?!!
JAMES??!
WHAT IS THIS?!!
÷COFF!÷
YOU DIDN'T MIND LAST NIGHT.
IT'S YOUR REDHEAD FETISH.
GOD! THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU TODAY?
NUH!!
JAMES? YOU ALL RIGHT?
SIR?

HOUSE OF M #3

RRRR...
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND SOME HELP, STRANGER.
PLENTY TO GO 'ROUND.
HINES...WOULD YOU PLEASE ACCESS MR. LOGAN'S MEDICAL PROFILE AND HISTORY?
YES, SIR.
HEADS UP, HAIRIES! THE WOLVERINE IS COMING THROUGH!!
HUH? LITTLE MAN ATTACKS HULK!

JEAN, NO!
WE NEED TO DECIDE THE FATE OF WANDA MAXIMOFF.
〈BECAUSE, GAIJIN--〉
〈--YOU ARE NOT WORTHY.〉
AVENGERS, LET EMMA TAKE THE LEAD. WE HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE WITH--
LET'S JUST GRAB XAVIER AND GET OUT OF HERE.

LET'S JUST GRAB XAVIER AND GET OUT OF HERE.
WHAT?
JAMES?
YOU OKAY?
BECAUSE I THINK YOU OWE ME ONE HELL OF A--
I REMEMBER...
MY WHOLE LIFE.
EVERYTHING.
WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT DID WE DO YESTERDAY?
WHAT?
METAPHORICALLY?
YESTERDAY!! WHAT DID WE DO?!
THE MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL.
DON'T--IS THIS ABOUT CASUALTIES? THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
DON'T-- DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP ABOUT IT. THEY WERE JUST SOME HUMAN GRUNTS.
WHAT HAPPENED IN GENOSHA?
I DON'T KNOW. I HAVEN'T SEEN A PAPER.
WHAT HAPPENED? IS LORD MAGNUS OKAY?

OH MY GOD...
XAVIER...
WHAT'S GOING ON? DID YOU POP A BRAIN STITCH?
WE CAN GO TO MADAME WEB--SET YOU RIGHT.
THAT IS WHAT SHE'S THERE FOR.
YOU WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. WHO EVER NEEDED SOME ADJUSTMENT.
NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

FOOM

WHAT IS GOING ON...?

THE PULSE

THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS' BIG DAY!

Children of the atom and world leaders gather to pay tribute.

Trouble for Captain Marvel?

Page 6

Pulse Weekend Extra

Don't start your day without it!

House of Magnus gala this weekend

BETTY BRANT

Eric Magnus will be the center of attention, once again! This time at a charity gala in his honor hosted by the British Royal family.

Prince Namor, King T'Challa, Lord Victor Von Doom, Kree Private Genis-Vell, Princess Ororo of Kenya and a smorgasbord of international glitterati are expected to pay tribute to the man in a once-in-a-lifetime event commemorating the anniversary of the rebellion against homo sapien oppressors that held the world captive for decades.

The event has been put together by Magnus's children, all of whom will be in attendance. Security will be tight as a highly publicized event like this makes a prime target for sapien relation sympathizers. Rumors of several underground movements using this event to make a statement of violence against the house of Magnus have been circulating for weeks, but sources close to the event say that no such threats have surfaced and that "we do not live in fear."

Prince Namor, ruler of Atlantis will be attending.

Born in the Nazi death camp in Auschwitz, Poland and the only member of his family to survive the camp, Magnus discovered himself to be one of the earliest reported mutants. Because of his all-encompassing powers over Earth's magnetic fields, Magnus became an early target in anti-mutant propaganda where he was given the mocking name Magneto.

Magnus struggled through a number of sapien attacks over the years with various world governments and the media branding him a mutant terrorist. As New Yorkers know, on August 18, 1979, Eric Magnus came under attack by the original and highly controversial mutant-hunting Sentinels. This spectacular fight over the skies of New York City ended with Magnus unveiling proof of a worldwide multi-governmental anti-mutant conspiracy that funneled all the way up to our elected world leaders of the time, including American President Richard Nixon.

It was soon after the famed Sentinel takedown that the U.N. granted Magneto sovereignty over the newly established island of Genosha as the world capital of the mutant population.

Since then, with the homo superior population growing so quickly it is believed it will overtake the sapien population by the year 2013, Magneto's power base has restructured the world governments to include the pro-mutant life agenda into any and all law making.

Look for full coverage of the event in the weekend edition of The Pulse along with an exclusive full color photo essay of the red carpet arrivals.

House of M's **Eric Magnus** and **Princess Ororo** of Kenya will be among the dignitaries celebrating thirty years of freedom from oppression by Sapiens.

New technique eyed in mutant stem-cell debate

KAT FARRELL

With the nation deadlocked over the questionable morality of using mutated homo superior embryos for research for human medical treatments, a high ranking member of the President's Council on Nu-Bioethics is developing a proposal that might allow scientists to create the equivalent of homo superior embryonic stem cells without destroying mutant embryos, offering a potential path out of the controversy.

Dr. Otto Octavius, a bioethicist and staunch opponent of research on mutant embryos, has developed a procedure called altered (Continued 15-B)

Doctor Otto Octavius revealed his new procedure known as "altered".

Hydra splinter group claims responsibility for kidnapping

By Ben Urich

A woman who goes by the name Madame Hydra released a statement to the press via a web site claiming responsibility for the abduction of Mariko Harada, daughter of Japanese businessman Keniuchio Harada. The statement claims that Harada is actually the leader of the Japanese crime cartel Clan Yashida. Harada has denied these claims on numerous occasion and points to his legitimate business ventures both here in America and abroad.

Mariko Harada, 11, was last seen being dragged into a red van containing at least five masked males right outside the Baxter Building, NYPD Sgt. Jasper Sitwell said:

The girl is believed to be in imminent danger. Madame Hydra's statement included the words: "this girl's mutant blood will spill in the streets if the Harada family does not forfeit their profits in the Indonesian MGH drug trade."

The Harada family, through a statement, said: "this devastating turn of events is nothing short of blackmail. The Harada family does not profit from the international drug trade. This is the work of psychotics. Please, we beg you, give us our innocent daughter back. If she is not returned unharmed, there will be no end to the retaliation."

Mariko is described as 4 feet tall, weighing 65 pounds, with black hair and black eyes, and wearing a white sweater and black jeans.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the nearest law-enforcement agency

Janet Van Dyne

PARIS ◊ MILAN ◊ NEW YORK CITY

HOT AS HELL!

TONY STARK

ALISON BLAIRE

RALPH MACCHIO

JASON WYNGARDE

WARREN WORTHINGTON III
Sex scandal threatens to bring down family empire.

HELLFIRE CLUB
Closes its doors for the first time since 1760

COLD AS ICE!

Spidey and Son

Peter Parker and son Richie spend quality time in Central Park.

Suspected Sapien Gang Members Arrested in Hell's Kitchen

Raphael Vega and Shang-Chi face organized crime charges.

HELL'S KITCHEN(Reuters)
Fifty-one people believed to be members of two powerful organized sapien crime gangs in New York were rounded up in predawn raids and indicted on Tuesday, authorities said.

In three separate indictments filed in Manhattan Federal Court, the gang members faced charges including murder, attempted murder, racketeering, extortion, money laundering and operation of illegal gambling businesses.

Federal agents and New York police arrested members of the Dragon and Wolfpack crime organizations after investigations spanning two years, authorities said.

The Dragon group, led by Shang-Chi, and the Wolfpack group, headed by Raphael Vega, used violence and threats to protect their turf and profits, the U.S. Attorney General's office said.

A third indictment charged five defendants with smuggling illegal sapiens from Europe to the United States for fees of up to $44,000 each, and holding them hostage pending payment.

Lord Kevin Plunder gets asylum in the United States

Human rights activist Lord Kevin Reginald Plunder has obtained political asylum in the United States after fleeing Pangea, where he had been serving a prison sentence for speaking out against the established government.

Plunder, 26, was originally given a four-year prison sentence on appeal on September 25th. In the last of a series of secret hearings, the district court of Pandor sentenced Plunder (Continued 6-B)

BLIND ITEMS

GREEN WITH...

Word around City Hall is that a certain green-skinned, purple suited She-lawyer, who tends to overbill her sapien clients and then bully them into paying the tab, has been pressing green to flesh with a sight-impaired peer in the back halls of the courthouse. Though green isn't this man about town's favorite color, I certainly think she can do a little better. But hey, they say love is blind. They also say it isn't easy being green. And they also say: get a room, girl!!

WHEN IS IT TIME...

Poor national TV talk show host, Alison Blaire, whose bright shining smile brightens every dreary drone's mediocre life. With her big contract negotiation out of the way, when will she break the news to her daytime audience that her mutant days are numbered due to a rare blood disorder that has all but pulled the plug on her signature light show.

BUN IN THE IRON OVEN?

Like he didn't have enough trouble, now we hear that a once truly super supermodel is six months preggers and three months away from what's gotta be one of the biggest paydays in palimony history. And if the mustached one doesn't start returning her phone calls, it could get mighty ugly, mighty fast. Book and TV offers are flooding in. Tony, phone call on line one.

YOU TOUCH IT, YOU BOUGHT IT!
ERT!
NEED THE BIKE. NOTHING PERSONAL.
WHAT?
GET OFF QUIETLY AND--
GO STRAIGHT TO--
SPOK
CANONBALL
SKEEEEEEEEEEEE
VRRROOOOOOOOOOOWWWW

1407 GRAYMALKIN LANE, SALEM CENTER, WESTCHESTER COUNTY
SNFF!

WHERE'S CHARLES XAVIER?

W-WHO?
DON'T LIP ME.
WHERE IS CHARLES XAVIER?
I-I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS.
I-I THINK--
I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG HOUSE.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED HERE?
F-FIFTEEN YEARS.
PLEASE-- PLEASE LEAVE MY FAMILY ALONE.

ROAD HOUSE
INFORMATION, WHAT CITY?
NEED A LISTING.
NAME?
CHARLES XAVIER.
WHAT CITY?
I DON'T KNOW.
I NEED A CITY.
NEW YORK?
NO LISTING FOR THE NEW YORK AREA.
WESTCHESTER COUNTY?
NO. SORRY, SIR.
UM. NEW LISTING.
UH... PETER PARKER.
THE FAN CLUB?
WHAT?
HEY, SAPE, I'M NOT DONE TALKIN' TO YA!
AGH!
COME ON! CATCH A LITTLE FIRE, SAPE!
STOP IT!
TORCH HER CLOTHES, LET'S SEE A SHOW.
COME ON, SHOW A LITTLE!
YEAH, HERE WE-- UH-OH.
HELLO? HELLO--?
SNIKT
SNIKT

NEW YORK CITY
ERT!
REASON PSYTECH WON'T CATCH ON IS BECAUSE MOST LOW- GRADE PSYCHICS DO NOT NEED THE--
I DON'T AGREE, FORGE.
THEY DON'T NEED ANY KIND OF ENHANCED--
YOU'RE WRONG.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY GETTING TICKETS IS SO HARD.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
WELCOME TO STARK TOWER. CAN I HELP YOU?
TONY STARK?
I'M SORRY?
JUST TELL HIM--
I'M SORRY, HE DOESN'T LIVE IN THIS CITY. HE ONLY OWNS THE BUILDING.
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH TONY STARK, JAMES?
BOSSES WANT YOU BROUGHT BACK IN.
THEY SAID ANY WHICH WAY.

AGENT DREW--
THE HELL IS *WRONG* WITH YOU, JAMES?
YA SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF US, SUGAH.
WE'RE YOUR TEAM. IF THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON--
S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND, THIS IS RED GUARD AGENT DARKHOLME. WE HAVE HIM.
OKAY.
JAMES, SERIOUSLY, DO WHAT AGENT DREW SAYS, OKAY?
HE'S POPPED A STITCH.
TOO BAD.
JAMES, WE'RE TAKING YOU BACK TO COMMAND. DON'T GET ROUGH IN FRONT OF CIVILIANS. WE CAN'T HAVE IT.
DON'T MAKE THE STREET SAPES CRY.
LET'S JUST WALK OUT OF HERE.
HOW'D YOU FIND ME?
YOU HAVE A TRACKER, YOU KNOW THAT.
JEEZ, I THINK HE *DID* POP A STITCH.
IF ONLY.

KRAK!
HE'S BOLTING!! DREW'S DOWN!! WE NEED BACK UP!!!
DAMN!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BAMF
SPING
SPAK!
SPAK!
BLAM
COME ON, YOU'RE RUININ' A GOOD THING HERE!
SPING
SPASH
NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE--
BAMF
JAMES, YOU CAN'T OUTRUN US!
AGH!
WHUMP

KRREESH!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS!!!
SELFISH %?$#!
VRMM!
PNKK!
BAMF
BAMF
VRROOOOOOOOMM
BAMF
SCREEEE
BAMF
CHUCK CHUCK

CRUCCK
ARGH!! I'M DOWN!!
AAGGH'VE BEEN SHOT!
GRUNKOH
GRUNKOH
GRUNKOH

CRASH
ARGH!
NNYAARRGGH!
SNIKT
SNIKT
CALM IT DOWN, MUTANT!
YOU KNOW ME?
THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?
LOVE TO TALK TO YOU, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CRASH YOUR TRACKER.
THE HELL IS THIS?
CAGE?
CRASH THE TRACKER IN THE BASE OF YOUR NECK OR WE'LL DO IT FOR YOU.
YOU HEARD THE MAN.

DO IT.

HOUSE OF M #4

GENOSHA, CASTLE MAGNUS

GRANDPA?

I MADE THIS FOR YOU.

WITH MY MIND.

HELL'S KITCHEN, NEW YORK CITY

DO WHAT THE MAN SAID! WE KNOW YOU'RE S.H.I.E.L.D.!! YOU'RE SHAW'S RED GUARD ARMY!!

YOU CALLED ME CAGE. HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

THERE'S A TRACKER DEVICE IN THE BACK OF YOUR NECK, TELLS THE EYE IN THE SKY WHERE YOU ARE.

PULL IT OUT OR I DO IT FOR YOU.

CAGE, I NEED YOU TO CALM EVERYONE DOWN SO I CAN--

FINE.

CHUNK

FUMP

BARTON!!

I'M DONE TAKING CHANCES WITH THESE MUTANTS. WE NEED TO--

WHAT DID I SAY?? YOU DIDN'T EVEN GIVE HIM...

...A CHANCE.

HAWKEYE, DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON HERE? DO YOU?
DO YOU?
WE NEED TO--
I THOUGHT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES--
CLINT, THERE'S A KID HERE!!
THAT TRACKER WAS GOING TO BRING THE RED ARMY RIGHT UP OUR--
UH, GUYS?
GUYS, I THINK HE'S GETTING--
THERE'S A LOT RIDING ON--
I KNOW. AND I'M DONE TAKING CHANCES ON--!!
HE'S AWAKE.

RRRRHOW LONG WAS I OUT?
HOW THE HELL ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?
HOW LONG??!!
TH-THIRTY SECONDS. ISH.
TOO LATE.
TOO LATE FOR WHAT?
BUT YOU'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FOR HALF A--
IF YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME, YOU SHOULD HAVE YANKED THE TRACKER AT THE BACK OF MY NECK OUT *BEFORE* YOU BROUGHT ME *HERE*.

SAPIEN TARGETS IDENTIFIED.

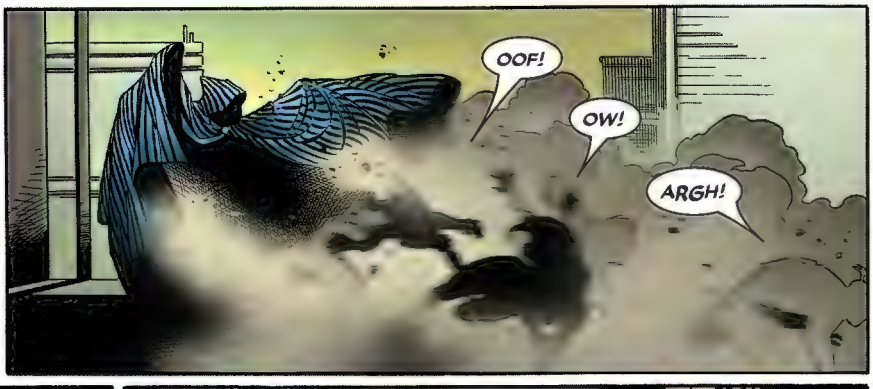
SAPIEN TARGETS LOCATION STATUS UNKNOWN.
COMMAND FOLLOW THROUGH NOT APPLIED.

SAPIEN TARGETS LOCKED.

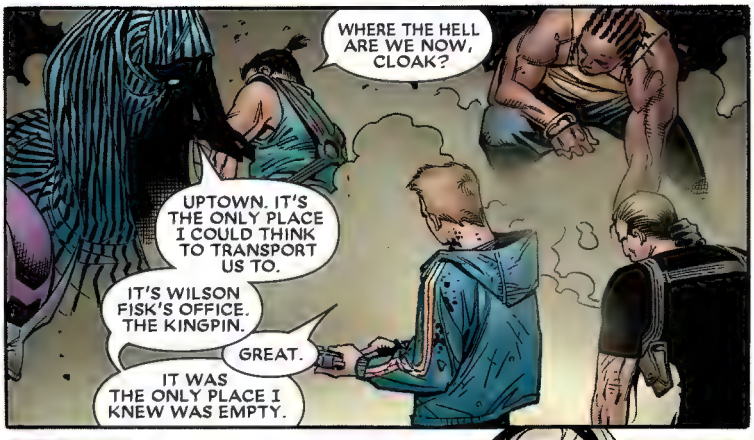
ACTION INITIATED.

SSHHAZZAAAZZAABOOM

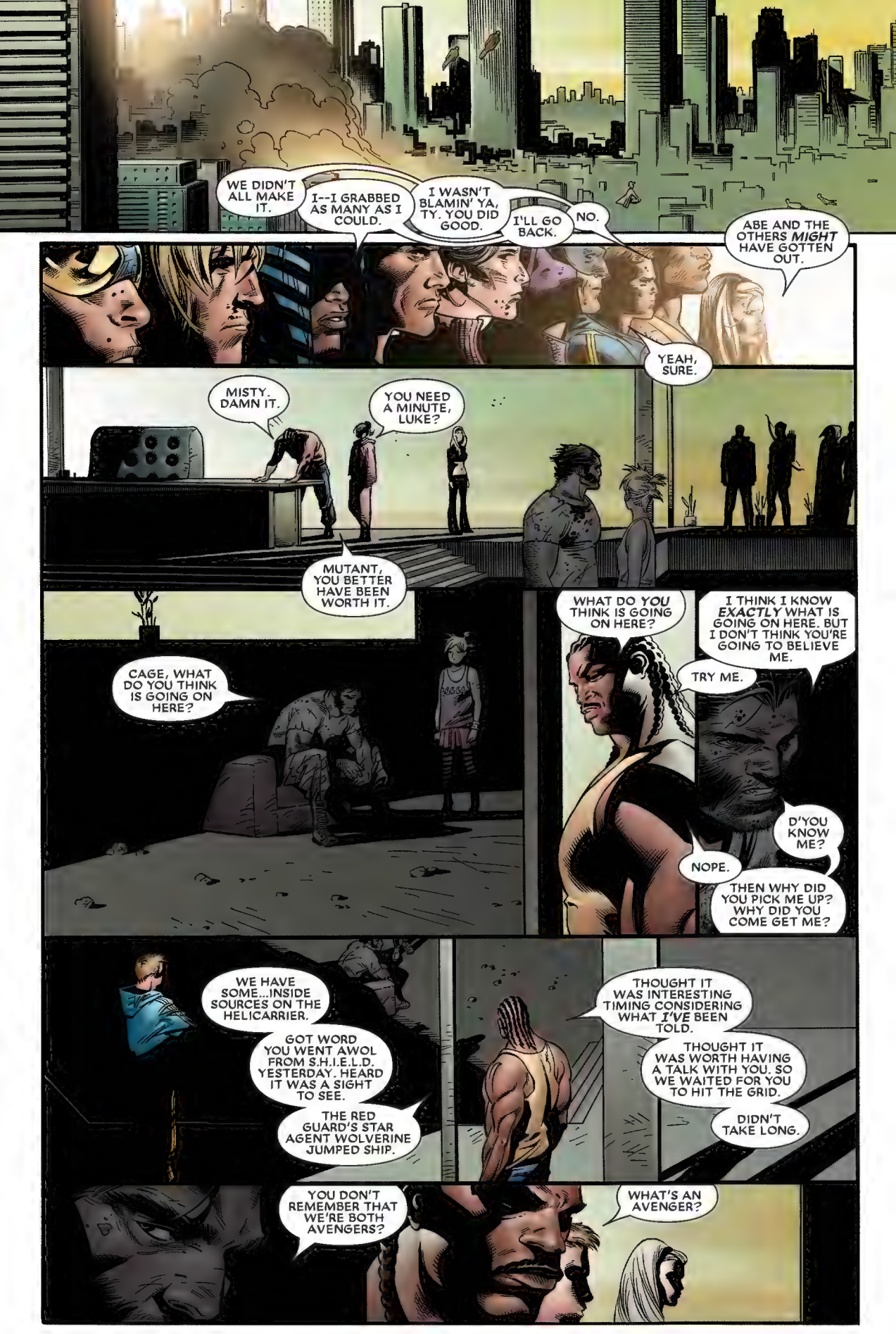
ACTION INITIATED.

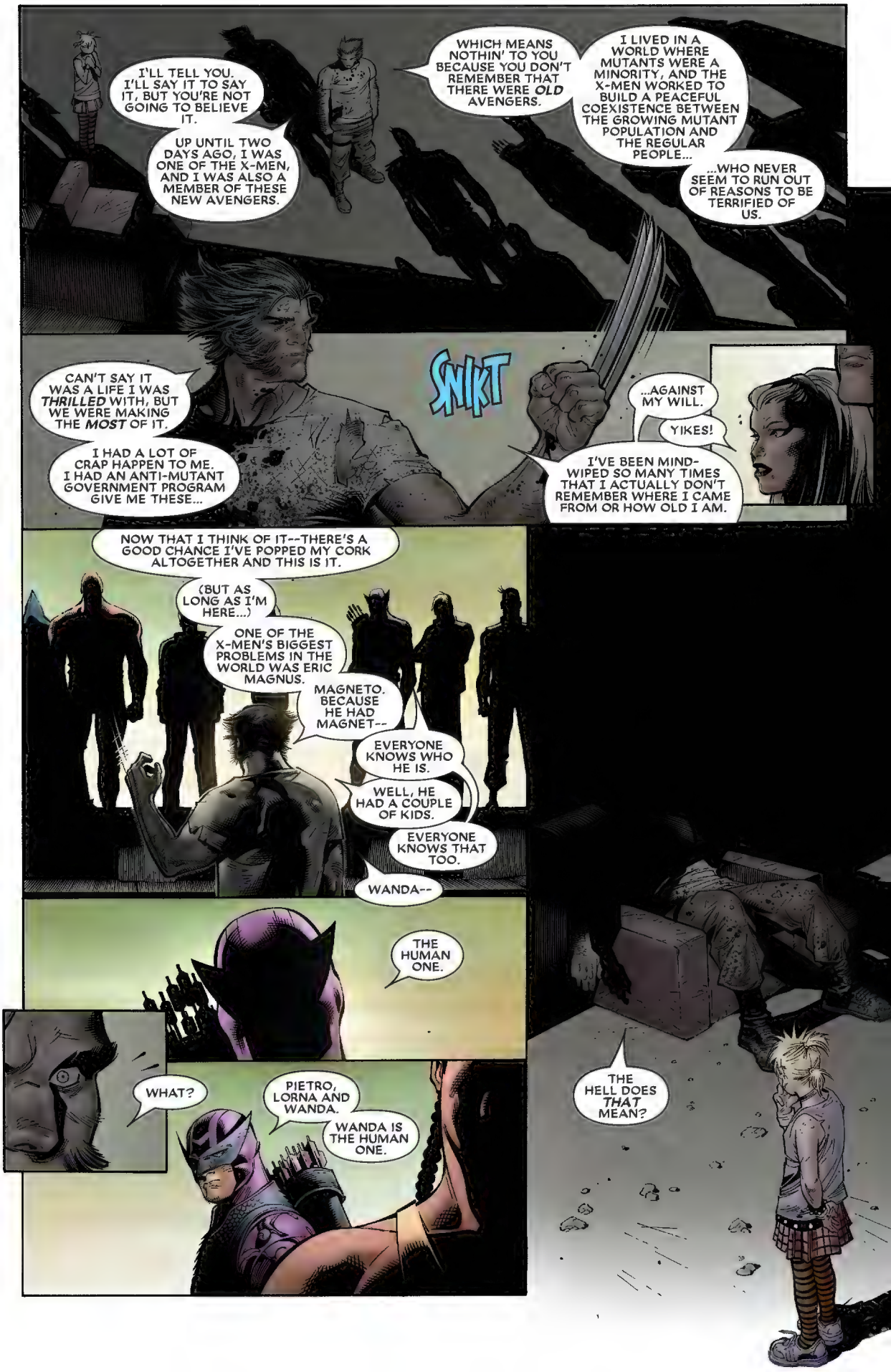

OOF!
OW!
ARGH!

YOU GOOD, KID?
WHERE? WHAT?
AM I WHAT?


WHERE THE HELL ARE WE NOW, CLOAK?
UPTOWN. IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I COULD THINK TO TRANSPORT US TO.
IT'S WILSON FISK'S OFFICE. THE KINGPIN.
GREAT.
IT WAS THE ONLY PLACE I KNEW WAS EMPTY.

DID YOU GET EVERYONE?
OH MY GOD,WE'RE MISSING--
GUYS, YOU CAN SEE HELL'S KITCHEN FROM HERE.

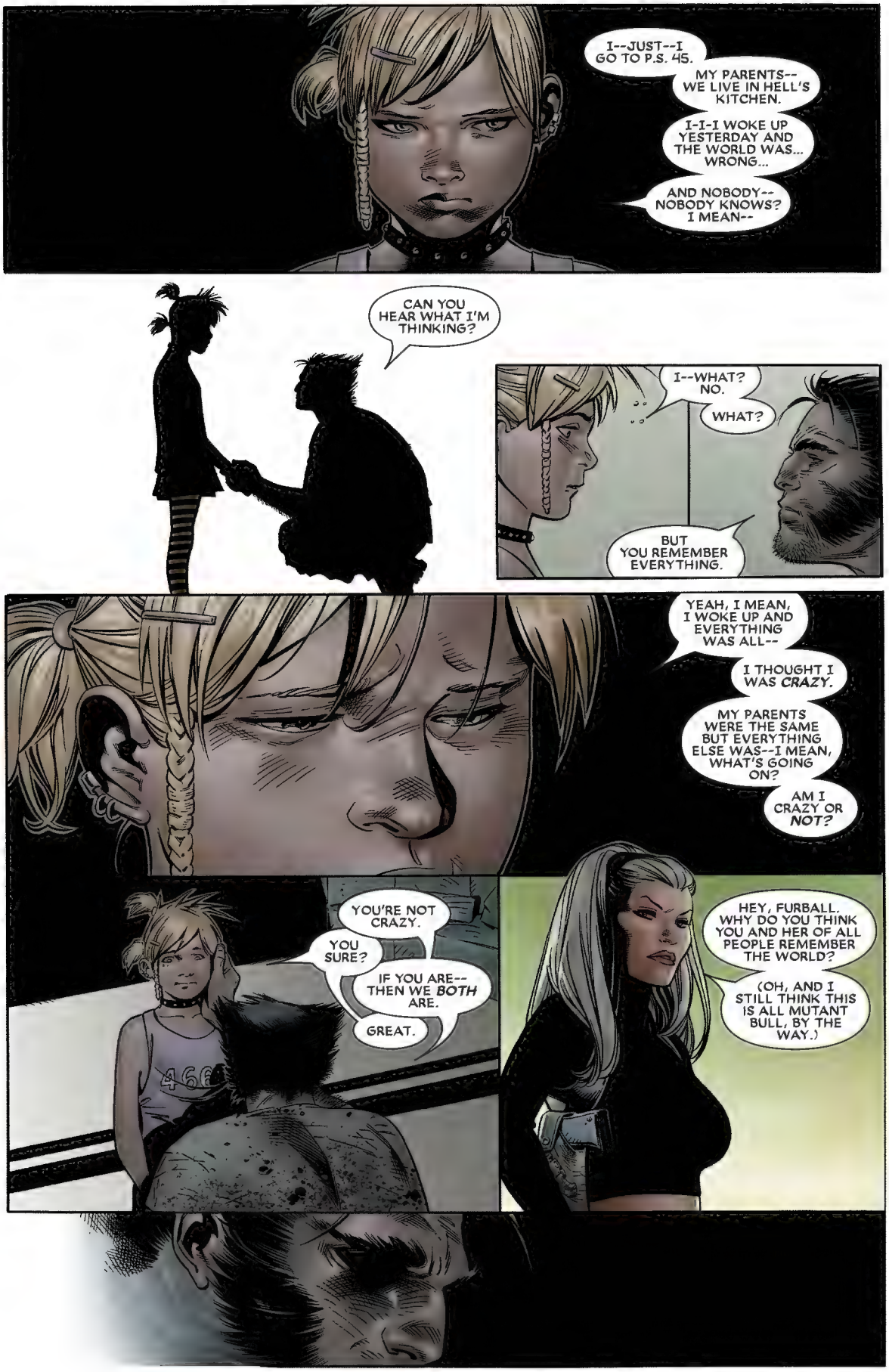

WE DIDN'T ALL MAKE IT.
I--I GRABBED AS MANY AS I COULD.
I WASN'T BLAMIN' YA, TY. YOU DID GOOD.
I'LL GO BACK.
NO.
ABE AND THE OTHERS *MIGHT* HAVE GOTTEN OUT.
YEAH, SURE.
MISTY. DAMN IT.
YOU NEED A MINUTE, LUKE?
MUTANT, YOU BETTER HAVE BEEN WORTH IT.
CAGE, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON HERE?
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK IS GOING ON HERE?
I THINK I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT IS GOING ON HERE. BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BELIEVE ME.
TRY ME.
D'YOU KNOW ME?
NOPE.
THEN WHY DID YOU PICK ME UP? WHY DID YOU COME GET ME?
WE HAVE SOME...INSIDE SOURCES ON THE HELICARRIER.
GOT WORD YOU WENT AWOL FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. YESTERDAY. HEARD IT WAS A SIGHT TO SEE.
THE RED GUARD'S STAR AGENT WOLVERINE JUMPED SHIP.
THOUGHT IT WAS INTERESTING TIMING CONSIDERING WHAT *I'VE* BEEN TOLD.
THOUGHT IT WAS WORTH HAVING A TALK WITH YOU. SO WE WAITED FOR YOU TO HIT THE GRID.
DIDN'T TAKE LONG.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER THAT WE'RE BOTH AVENGERS?
WHAT'S AN AVENGER?


I'LL TELL YOU. I'LL SAY IT TO SAY IT, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE IT.
UP UNTIL TWO DAYS AGO, I WAS ONE OF THE X-MEN, AND I WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THESE NEW AVENGERS.
WHICH MEANS NOTHIN' TO YOU BECAUSE YOU DON'T REMEMBER THAT THERE WERE OLD AVENGERS.
I LIVED IN A WORLD WHERE MUTANTS WERE A MINORITY, AND THE X-MEN WORKED TO BUILD A PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN THE GROWING MUTANT POPULATION AND THE REGULAR PEOPLE...
...WHO NEVER SEEM TO RUN OUT OF REASONS TO BE TERRIFIED OF US.
CAN'T SAY IT WAS A LIFE I WAS THRILLED WITH, BUT WE WERE MAKING THE MOST OF IT.
I HAD A LOT OF CRAP HAPPEN TO ME. I HAD AN ANTI-MUTANT GOVERNMENT PROGRAM GIVE ME THESE...
SNIKT
...AGAINST MY WILL.
YIKES!
I'VE BEEN MIND-WIPED SO MANY TIMES THAT I ACTUALLY DON'T REMEMBER WHERE I CAME FROM OR HOW OLD I AM.
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT--THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE I'VE POPPED MY CORK ALTOGETHER AND THIS IS IT.
(BUT AS LONG AS I'M HERE...)
ONE OF THE X-MEN'S BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD WAS ERIC MAGNUS.
MAGNETO. BECAUSE HE HAD MAGNET--
EVERYONE KNOWS WHO HE IS.
WELL, HE HAD A COUPLE OF KIDS.
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT TOO.
WANDA--
THE HUMAN ONE.
WHAT?
PIETRO, LORNA AND WANDA.
WANDA IS THE HUMAN ONE.
THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?

IT'S IN THE TABLOIDS EVERY DAY.
THE MUTANT LEADER HAS A HUMAN CHILD.
RAISED HER EQUAL TO HIS OTHER CHILDREN.
IT'S QUITE INSPIRING TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE EVERYTHING THEY READ.
YEAH, WELL, DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY WANDA MAXIMOFF WAS A MUTANT. CALLED HERSELF THE SCARLET WITCH.
ENDS UP SHE HAD MORE VOODOO "POWER" THAN MOST ANYONE EVER.
MORE THAN SHE COULD CONTROL. YOU KNOW WHAT SHE COULD DO?
NO.
SHE COULD SCREW WITH THE WORLD AROUND HER.
A LITTLE HERE AND THERE.
HERE AND THERE!
KEEP GOIN'.
SHE LOST CONTROL OF HER MIND NOT TOO LONG AGO, AND SHE KILLED A LOT OF GOOD PEOPLE.
SHE WAS AN AVENGER, AND--
LIKE ME.
NO, SHE WAS ONE OF THE OLD ONES.
SHE WAS THE REASON THE OLD ONES STOPPED BEING AVENGERS.
SHE WENT NUTS OR SOMETHIN', AND SHE ATTACKED HER OWN TEAM.
KILLED HALF OF 'EM.
TWO DAYS AGO, THE X-MEN AND THE AVENGERS GOT TOGETHER TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH HER--
--SHE WAS OUT OF CONTROL AND OUT OF HER MIND.
SHE MURDERED ALL THESE FAMOUS SUPER HEROES...
SO WE WENT OFF TO GENOSHA WHERE MAGNETO WAS KEEPING HER, AND WHEN WE DID... THE WORLD WENT WHITE, AND I WOKE UP TO THIS.
WHITE?
MAGNETO TURNED HIMSELF FROM EXILED MASS MURDERER TO KING OF THE WORLD.
THERE AIN'T NO X-MEN, THERE AIN'T NO AVENGERS.
MUTANTS RUN THE PLACE. A DAMN MUTANT UTOPIA.
YEAH. UPSIDE DOWN AND SIDEWAYS. ON EVERY LEVEL.
AND I GOT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE STICKIN' ARROWS IN MY NECK.
WHAT ABOUT ME? WHAT WAS I BEFORE THE WORLD WENT WHITE?

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED.
GO TO HELL!
MORE THAN I ALREADY AM?
DEAD.
YOU'RE CLINT BARTON. HAWKEYE.
THE WITCH KILLED YA MONTHS AGO.
THIS IS SOME-- CAGE, THIS IS SOME WHACKED OUT MUTANT TRICK TO GET US TO--
WHAT KIND OF TRICK, FELICIA? THEY *HAD* US.
I GOT A KID COMING. THAT'S WHAT *I* SAW.
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU AND JESSICA.
JESSICA WHO?
WAIT--YOU SAW?
IF YOU'RE LYIN' TO ME--
WAIT--WHAT DID YOU SEE?
AND WHAT ARE YOU? MOON KNIGHT, IRON FIST, RIGHT?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ALL SUPPOSED TO BE?

WE *WERE* JUST TRYING TO KEEP THE BALANCE...FROM UNDERGROUND.
TRYING TO MAKE SURE SAPIENS GET SOME SORT OF FAIR SHAKE IN THE WORLD.
THAT SURE *SOUNDS* LIKE WHAT YOU WOULD DO.
AND YOU.
AND YOU TOO.
YOU KNOW ALL OF US?
YEAH, DANNY. THE IRON FIST. I *KNOW* YOU.
SO WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO TO PUT THE WORLD BACK THE WAY IT WAS?
YOU *BELIEVE* ME?
YEAH.
WHY?
SEE THAT GIRL?
YESTERDAY THAT GIRL WALKED UP TO ME OUT OF THE BLUE AND SAID EXACTLY WHAT YOU JUST SAID.
X-MEN, AVENGERS, HAWKEYE DIED...
SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT SHE KNEW IT HAPPENED.
IN DETAIL. EVERY SINGLE THING.
THEN I SAW IT MYSELF. MY KID COMING. MY GIRL. MY LIFE THAT ISN'T THIS. I COULD SEE IT IN MY MIND.
AS CLEAR AS ANYTHING I HAVE EVER SEEN. OR SMELLED. OR ANYTHING.
WHO ARE YOU?
L-LAYLA.
LIKE THE SONG?
NO.
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?


I--JUST--I GO TO P.S. 45.
MY PARENTS-- WE LIVE IN HELL'S KITCHEN.
I-I-I WOKE UP YESTERDAY AND THE WORLD WAS... WRONG...
AND NOBODY-- NOBODY KNOWS? I MEAN--
CAN YOU HEAR WHAT I'M THINKING?
I--WHAT? NO.
WHAT?
BUT YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING.
YEAH, I MEAN, I WOKE UP AND EVERYTHING WAS ALL--
I THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY.
MY PARENTS WERE THE SAME BUT EVERYTHING ELSE WAS--I MEAN, WHAT'S GOING ON?
AM I CRAZY OR NOT?
YOU'RE NOT CRAZY.
YOU SURE?
IF YOU ARE-- THEN WE BOTH ARE.
GREAT.
HEY, FURBALL. WHY DO YOU THINK YOU AND HER OF ALL PEOPLE REMEMBER THE WORLD?
(OH, AND I STILL THINK THIS IS ALL MUTANT BULL, BY THE WAY.)

LIKE I SAID--
--OVER THE YEARS I'VE BEEN MIND-WIPED SO MANY TIMES I DON'T REMEMBER WHO I AM BEFORE A CERTAIN TIME.
DON'T REMEMBER WHERE I CAME FROM--HOW OLD I AM--MY PARENTS.
BUT TWO DAYS AGO I WOKE UP AND I REMEMBERED EVERY SINGLE MOMENT OF MY ENTIRE LIFE.
UP TO AND INCLUDING TODAY.
IT'S ALL I--
46664
WHAT?
IT'S ALL I...EVER WANTED.
MAGNETO GOT HIS DAUGHTER TO GIVE US ALL WHAT WE ALWAYS WANTED...
...SO HE COULD HAVE WHAT *HE* ALWAYS WANTED.
HOW WOULD HE EVEN *KNOW* WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED?
CHARLIE...
IS THERE A PHONE BOOK IN HERE?

CONNECTICUT. THE SUMMERS RESIDENCE

RELAX, NO ONE'S HERE.

WHOSE HOUSE IS THIS?

A FRIEND.

(I THINK.)

NO...

YOU READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD, KID?

WHAT? NO.

JUST DO WHAT YOU DID TO LUKE CAGE TO EMMA FROST.

SHE'S GOT A BIG OL' BRAIN. SHE CAN HANDLE ANYTHING YOU--

BUT I-I-I-I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT I *DID*.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

"IT?" DO "IT?" I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT "IT" IS. I DON'T--

DON'T *WORRY* ABOUT IT?

HOW DO YOU KNOW I DID SOMETHING? I'VE NEVER DONE *ANYTHING* BEFORE.

I HAVE TO GO HOME. I SHOULD BE *HOME*. WHERE AM I?

THIS ISN'T-- I GOTTA GO.

I'M SO GROUNDED I CAN'T EVEN--

KID, WHY DID YOU COME TO CAGE IN THE FIRST PLACE? WHY CAGE?

I'M FROM HELL'S KITCHEN. I WAS KINDA LOOKING FOR *DAREDEVIL*, AND I SAW HIM FIRST.

AND I JUST-- I SAW HIM AND I--I HAD TO TELL *SOMEONE*.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

YOU'RE A MUTANT, KID.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

SHE'S HERE.

BE COOL.

HIYA, EMS.
YOU'RE ROBBING ME?!!
YEAH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO ANSWER.
THAT'S ME TELLING YOUR BRAIN TO DO WHAT I WANT. THAT'S WHAT I DO.
AND I DON'T WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DO TO HUMANS THAT--
WAIT, WHAT? WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
WHAT DID YOU JUST THINK?
HOW DO YOU KNOW ME?
YOU'RE IN MY BRAIN, EMMA. TAKE A LOOK.
THE HELL IS THIS?
WHAT?!!
I--I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

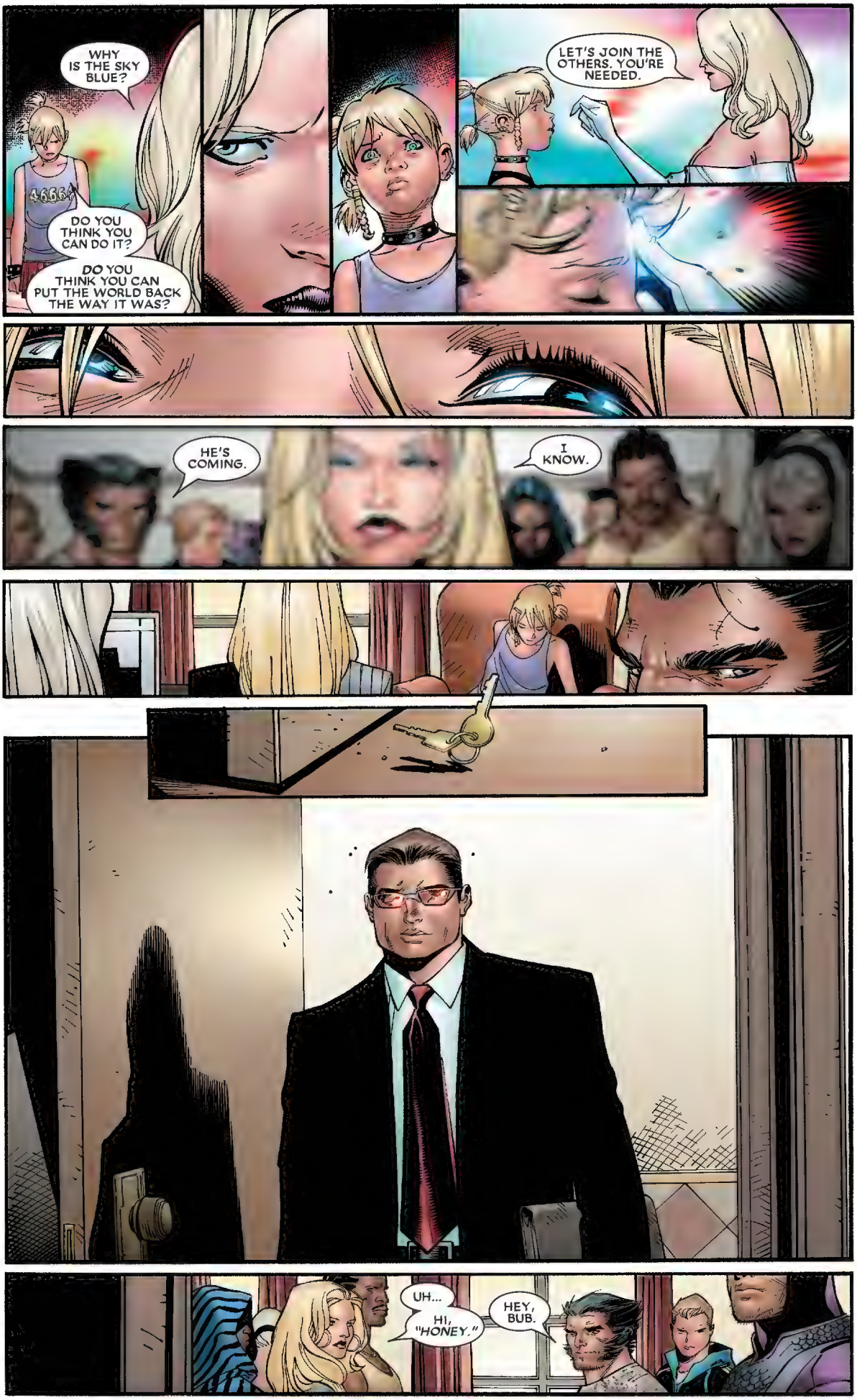
CHARLES...

NNNoOOOO!

NO!!
YEAH.
LOGAN, ARE YOU #$%&ING ME WITH THIS?
STEADY.
KID'S OKAY. WHAT HAPPENED?
THIS IS EMMA FROST, LEADER OF THE X-MEN.
HOUSE OF MAGNUS!!
HOUSE OF MAGNUS??!!
LOGAN, WE'RE GONNA--WE'RE GOING TO FIND MAGNETO, AND, OH!
THAT IS IT!! THIS IS IT!!
WE'RE GOING TO KILL HIM!
AND HIS KIDS!
YEAH, I GOT NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.
BUT--
PKLSSS
--WE'RE GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE THAN JUST US.
AND EVEN IF WE DO...
...THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN THE WHOLE DAMN WORLD...
...AIN'T SCREWED FOR GOOD.

HOUSE OF M #5

UM, *WHO* ARE YOU?
EMMA FROST. HEADMISTRESS OF THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING.
YOU'RE-- YOU'RE AN X-MAN?
I AM.
UH, *WHERE* ARE WE?
WELCOME TO YOUR HEAD.
MY HEAD?
THIS IS JUST A VISUAL PROJECTION OF YOUR PSYCHIC SELF.
UH-HUH.
I'M USING MY MUTANT PSYCHIC ABILITIES TO TRY AND FIGURE OUT HOW YOU DO WHAT YOU DO.
WHAT DO I DO?
YOU'RE A SPECIAL GIRL, LAYLA MILLER, AND I AM VERY CURIOUS AS TO *HOW* YOU ARE ABLE TO UNLOCK SOMEONE ELSE'S DEEP UNCONSCIOUS JUST BY--
HUH.
WHAT?
WHAT?
THESE PSYCHIC POWERS OF YOURS. *HMM.*
COME ON, DON'T *"HMMM."*
THEY'RE PSYCHIC BUT THEY'RE *NOT* PSYCHIC.
NOT LIKE MINE. NOT LIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN.
WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?
IT MEANS YOU'RE A CONUNDRUM.
IS THAT GOOD?
RARELY. BUT HEY, YOU NEVER KNOW.
WELL, YOU'RE A BURST OF SUNSHINE.
YOUNG LADY, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO TRUST ME AND I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO GROW UP FASTER THAN YOU MIGHT HAVE WANTED TO.
THE WORLD HAS BEEN SCREWED OVER WORSE THAN IT HAS *EVER* BEEN...AND ALL BECAUSE OF A MUTANT.
ALL BECAUSE OF A SELFISH, DELUDED MUTANT.
AND YOU--*IN* YOU--THERE'S THE POWER TO BAND TOGETHER THE HEROES OF AN ENTIRE WORLD SO THEY CAN TRY--AT LEAST--TO PUT IT BACK.
THE GOOD NEWS IS--I'LL BE HERE.
WITH YOU.
THE WHOLE TIME.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ALONE IN THIS.
WHY ME?


WHY IS THE SKY BLUE?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PUT THE WORLD BACK THE WAY IT WAS?
LET'S JOIN THE OTHERS. YOU'RE NEEDED.
HE'S COMING.
I KNOW.
UH...
HI, "HONEY."
HEY, BUB.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
LET'S DO IT THE WAY WE TALKED ABOUT, LAYLA. THIS IS SCOTT SUMMERS.
JUST RELAX AND LET ME HELP YOU FOCUS.
JUST FOCUS ON SCOTT. I HAVE YOU.
FOCUS.
FOCUS.
LET ME HELP.
AGH!
N--
HOLD IT TOGETHER, SCOTT.
STEADY.
EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
NN...

HHUUAGGHH!!
OH MY GOD...
OH NO...
YEAH.
WHY ARE *WE* MARRIED?
THE WHOLE WORLD?? *THE WHOLE WORLD??*
HOW COULD MAGNETO HAVE DONE THIS TO THE ENTIRE WORLD?
THIS??!!
WHERE'S PROFESSOR XAVIER?
WE HAVEN'T FOUND HIM YET.
I'VE BEEN UP TO THE SCHOOL-- IT AIN'T THE SCHOOL.
EVERYONE ELSE IS SCATTERED. WE CAN ONLY FIND A FEW OF US...
WHO *CAN* WE FIND?

PETER PARKER!
DID YOU FORGET YOUR WALLET?
MAYBE.
GIVE ME RICHIE. WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
I'VE GOT MONEY, GWENDOLYN. WE'LL BE--
HE LIKES TO HAVE HIS, UNCLE BEN.
I'LL BE BACK IN TWO SHAKES OF A--
DADDY FUNNY!!
YO! SPIDER-MAN!!
YOU'RE THE MAN!!
CAN I--?
SORRY.

HEY, KID-- WHAT'S *WRONG?* DON'T YOU *UNDERSTAND?* I *SAVED* YOU--

HYAAHAHAHAHAHAHAA!!

FACE IT, TIGER, YOU JUST HIT THE *JACKPOT!*

SNAP

...AND MY *NEWSPAPER* CHALLENGES *ANYONE* TO PROVE THAT *SPIDER-MAN* ISN'T A *PUBLIC ENEMY!*

I DO.

NO!! NO, STOP IT!!
STOP IT!!
PETER!?
WHAT IS IT?
AAAH-- GOD, NO...
SNAP
TAKE A BREATH AND--
NOOO!
PETER??
OH NO...
UNCLE BEN.

NOOO!!!
EXCUSE ME!
EXCUSE ME!! WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY TO MY HUSBAND??
GO PLAY IN THE PARK.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
THAT WAS DAMN AWFUL.
WHO WAS THAT LADY?
GWEN STACY. SHE DIED YEARS AGO.
I'M SORRY.
NOT YOUR FAULT, SWEETY.
WHO WANTS TO GO TALK TO HIM?
YEAH... I'LL GO.

AAGGHUUGH!!

TELL ME IT'S A TRICK, LOGAN.

TELL ME IT'S-- IT'S MYSTERIO. SOME HALLUCINATION HE PULLED OUT OF HIS--

PLEASE, PLEASE TELL ME I'VE SNAPPED.

JUST TELL ME IT'S *ME*. IT'S ALL IN *MY* HEAD. JUST TELL ME.

I CAN DEAL WITH THAT. *THAT* I CAN HANDLE.

TELL ME THIS ISN'T REALLY HAPPENING.

SORRY.

I- I HAVE-- DO YOU HAVE THIS? I HAVE MEMORIES ON TOP OF MEMORIES.

MEMORIES OF THINGS I DID ON TOP OF THINGS I DIDN'T.

I CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT... I CAN'T--

MARY JANE.

I HAVE A SON.

COME ON, WE HAVE THINGS TO DO.

IT'S NOT JUST YOU, YOU KNOW.

YEAH? WHAT DID *YOU* WAKE UP FROM?

LOOKS LIKE I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE NICK FURY.

SORRY.

HA!

THIS WASN'T IN THE BROCHURE.

WHAT?

YOU GET YOUR SUPER-POWERS, YOU FIGHT SOME BAD GUYS.

BUT THIS-- THIS WASN'T IN THE BROCHURE.

JUST HOW MUCH CRAP AM I SUPPOSED TO HAVE TO TAKE IN THIS LIFE?!!

WE GOT A LOT TO DO. CAN YOU GET IT TOGETHER?

LOGAN, I SWEAR TO GOD..I THINK I'M GOING TO KILL THEM.

MAGNETO. HIS STUPID DAUGHTER.

I'M GONNA KILL THEM WITH MY BARE HANDS.

I'M NOT-- I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO STOP MYSELF.

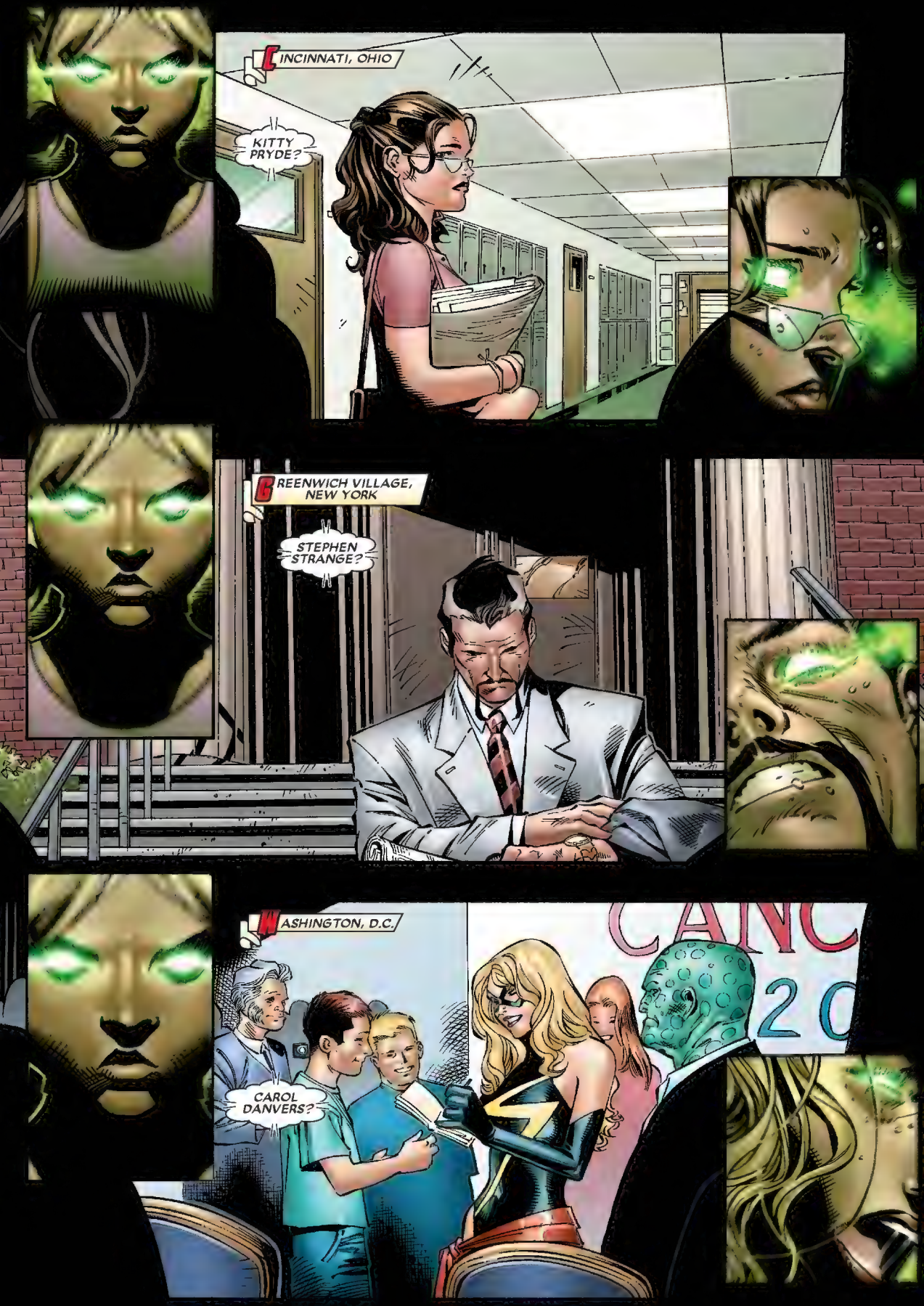
DON'T WORRY.

YOU WON'T GET THE CHANCE.

I'LL HAVE DONE IT ALREADY.

HOW DID HE DO THIS?

HOW DID THEY GET INTO MY HEAD? HOW DID THEY GET ME *THIS* BAD?


CINCINNATI, OHIO
KITTY PRYDE?
GREENWICH VILLAGE, NEW YORK
STEPHEN STRANGE?
WASHINGTON, D.C.
CAROL DANVERS?

CHICAGO
STARK!!
STARK!!
ARE YOU OR YOUR IRON MAN PART OF THE SAPIEN RESISTANCE?
WHAT OF ALLEGATIONS THAT THE--
STARK!!!!
STARK!!
DO YOU KNOW WHO IRON MAN IS?
STARK!!?
WHAT MOTIVE--?
STARK!!!
STARK!! DID YOU EVER--?
TONY STARK?
HELL'S KITCHEN, NEW YORK
YOU SAID IF I WON THE CASE, YOU'D BUY THE DRINKS?
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU PROVE THAT IN A COURT OF--
MATT MURDOCK?
JENNIFER WALTERS?
THE BRONX.
LAYLA, POWER DOWN. WE'RE NOT DOING THIS ONE.
THAT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA?
HE'S A HUNDRED YEARS OLD. HE WAS NEVER FROZEN IN THAT BLOCK OF ICE DURING WORLD WAR II.
IT'S IN ALL THE TEXT-BOOKS.
HAD TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF. HE'S OF ABSOLUTELY NO USE TO US LIKE THIS.
SHE'S RIGHT. LET'S GO.
TOO BAD. WE COULD'A USED HIM.

MAGNETO CONVINCED OR *FORCED* HIS MENTALLY ILL DAUGHTER TO TURN THE WORLD INTO HIS OWN IMAGE.

TO PULL THIS OFF HE HAS BETRAYED HIS FRIEND CHARLES XAVIER BY DRUGGING OR IN SOME WAY COERCING THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANT PSYCHIC ON THE PLANET TO DIG INTO OUR MINDS AND GIVE US OUR HEART'S DESIRE.

OR SOMETHING CLOSE ENOUGH WHERE WE WOULD BE PACIFIED AND HAPPY.

CONTENT TO LIVE MAGNETO'S DREAM.

XAVIER IS THE ONLY PSYCHIC POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO THIS.

THE ONLY ONE WITH THE CEREBRO TECHNOLOGY WIDE ENOUGH TO REACH THE WORLD IF HE NEEDED TO...OR WAS FORCED TO.

AND HE'S MISSING. GONE. NEVER EXISTED.

IS THERE ANYONE IN THIS ROOM WHO DOUBTS THAT THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED?

HAWKEYE... I CAN HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS LOUD AND CLEAR.

THE *ONLY* WAY YOU'LL BELIEVE US IS IF YOU'LL LET LAYLA DO WHAT SHE DOES AND UNLOCK YOUR MEMORIES OF YOUR LIFE BEFORE THIS ONE.

CLINT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO.

HAWKEYE, WHAT DO YOU--

WHAT I WANT IS FOR THIS MUTANT TO GET *OUT OF MY HEAD!!*

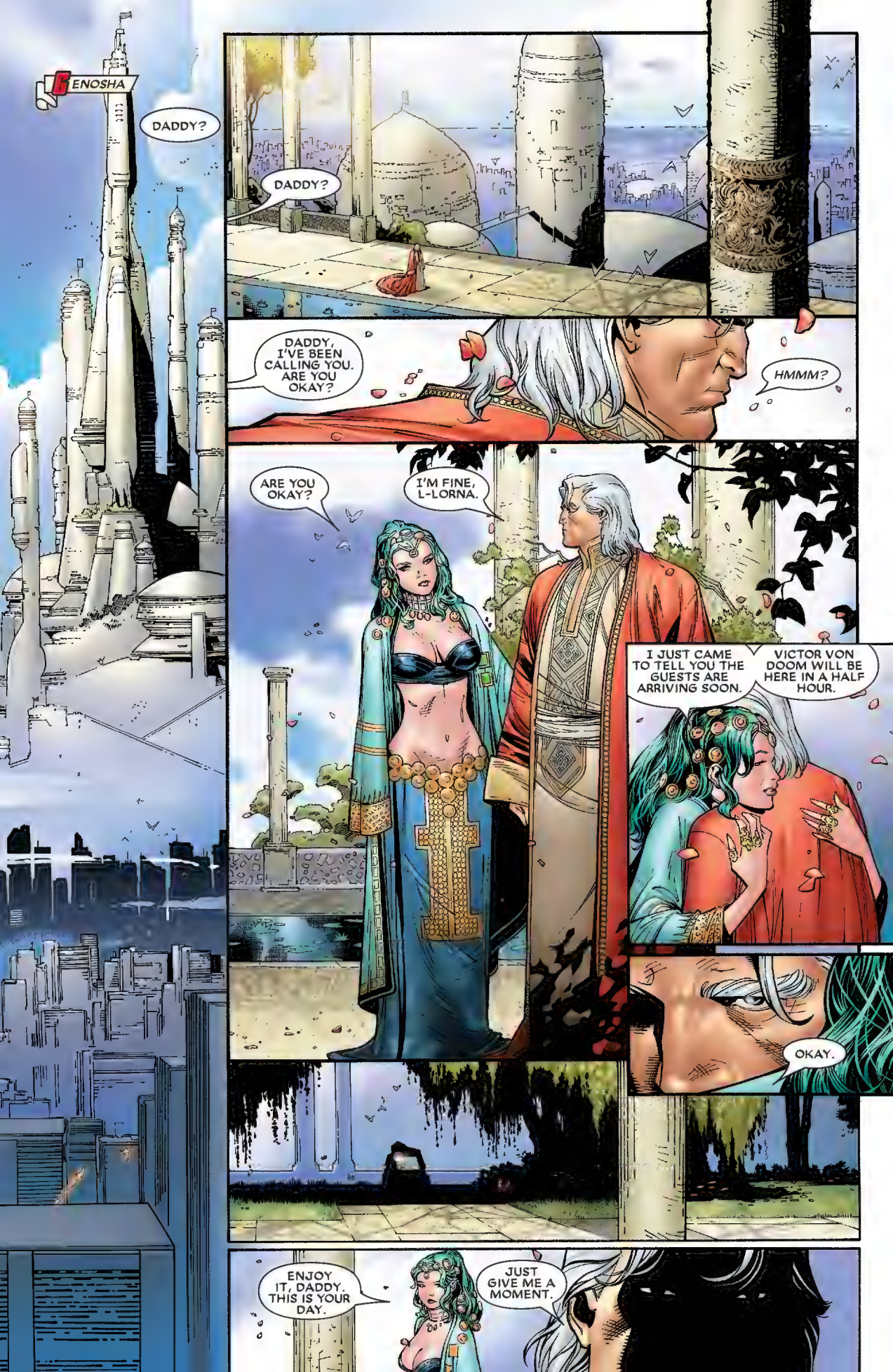
UH-OH...

GUYS, WE'RE ABOUT TO BE--

FOOM!
ALL Y'ALL GET YOUR HANDS AND CLAWS IN THE AIR, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!
JAMES, PLEASE...
OH YAY AND YIPPEE!!
NOW IT'S THE BESTEST DAY EVER!!
YUMMY!
JAMES, COME ON, THIS IS JUST INSANE!!
Y'BETTER PUT THOSE GLASSES BACK ON, 'FORE Y'GET YOURSELF HURT.
GET THE HELL OFF ME--
AAAIIEEE!!!
PUT THEM DOWN, BUT TRY NOT TO HURT THEM!
OKAY, REBEL PAINS IN THE EVERYTHING, WE GOT YA EVERY WAY TILL SUNDAY.
OH GOD!!
WE'RE AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. NOW PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR BEFORE SOMEONE GETS--

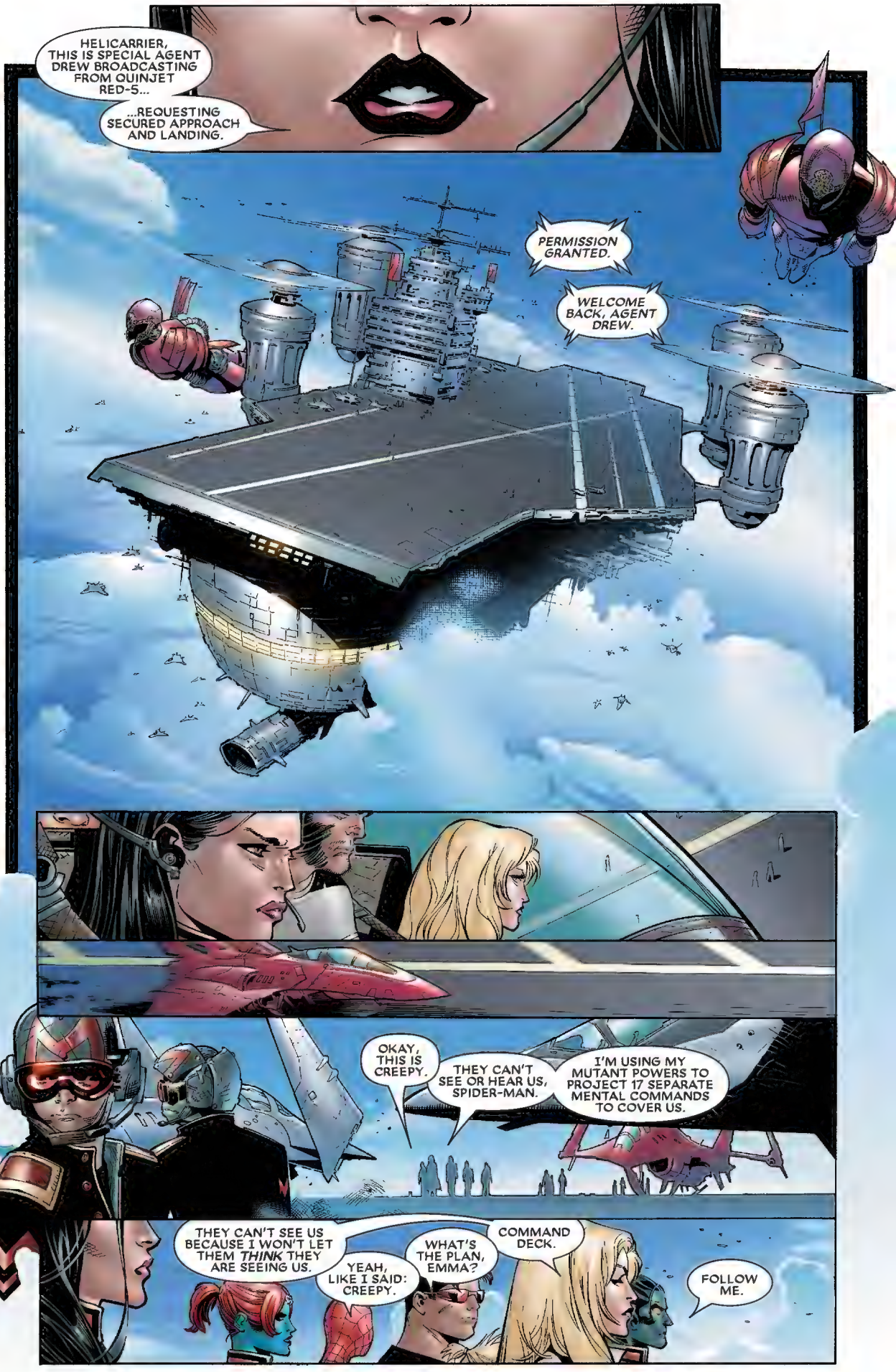
DON'T YOU HIT ME, MUTHER--
I'M--I'M HAVING TROUBLE SEEING STRAIGHT.
EMPTY YOUR MIND.
I CAN'T-- I CAN'T DO THIS!!
SMACK
AGH!
EMPTY YOUR MIND.
HOLD IT TOGETHER, ROGUE. WE NEED YOU.
OH NO. NONONONO!!!!
KURT! WHERE'S PIETRO?? WHERE IS HE?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM, LIEBCHEN.
OH MY GOD!!
YEAH, IT'S SOMETHIN', AIN'T IT?
NO...

SLAP
YA FEEL BETTER NOW, RAVEN?
I THINK I BROKE MY HAND.
SAVE IT FOR THE GUY WHO DID THIS TO US.
UH, GUYS...
...HAWKEYE'S GONE.
LET HIM GO.
WE DON'T NEED THE WEIGHT OF WHAT HE'S GOING THROUGH ON TOP OF WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.
GIRLY!! WHAT ARE YOU??
WHAT ARE YOU??!!
LEAVE HER ALONE, ROGUE. YOU TOUCHED HER. YOU JUST ABSORBED A BIT OF HER POWER.
SHE AIN'T HUMAN!!
DON'T BLAME THE MESSENGER.
I NEVER--SHE--I NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
NONE OF US HAVE.
WE NEED YOU TO GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF. ALL OF YOU.
WE CAN HAVE OUR NERVOUS BREAKDOWNS LATER.
EVERYONE GET IT TOGETHER!!!
FINE, BUT WHEN WE DO GET TO HAVE OUR NERVOUS BREAKDOWNS, I GO FIRST.
WHAT'S THE PLAN?
WE GO TO MAGNETO. RIGHT TO HIM.
GUARANTEE YA... HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHERE XAVIER IS.

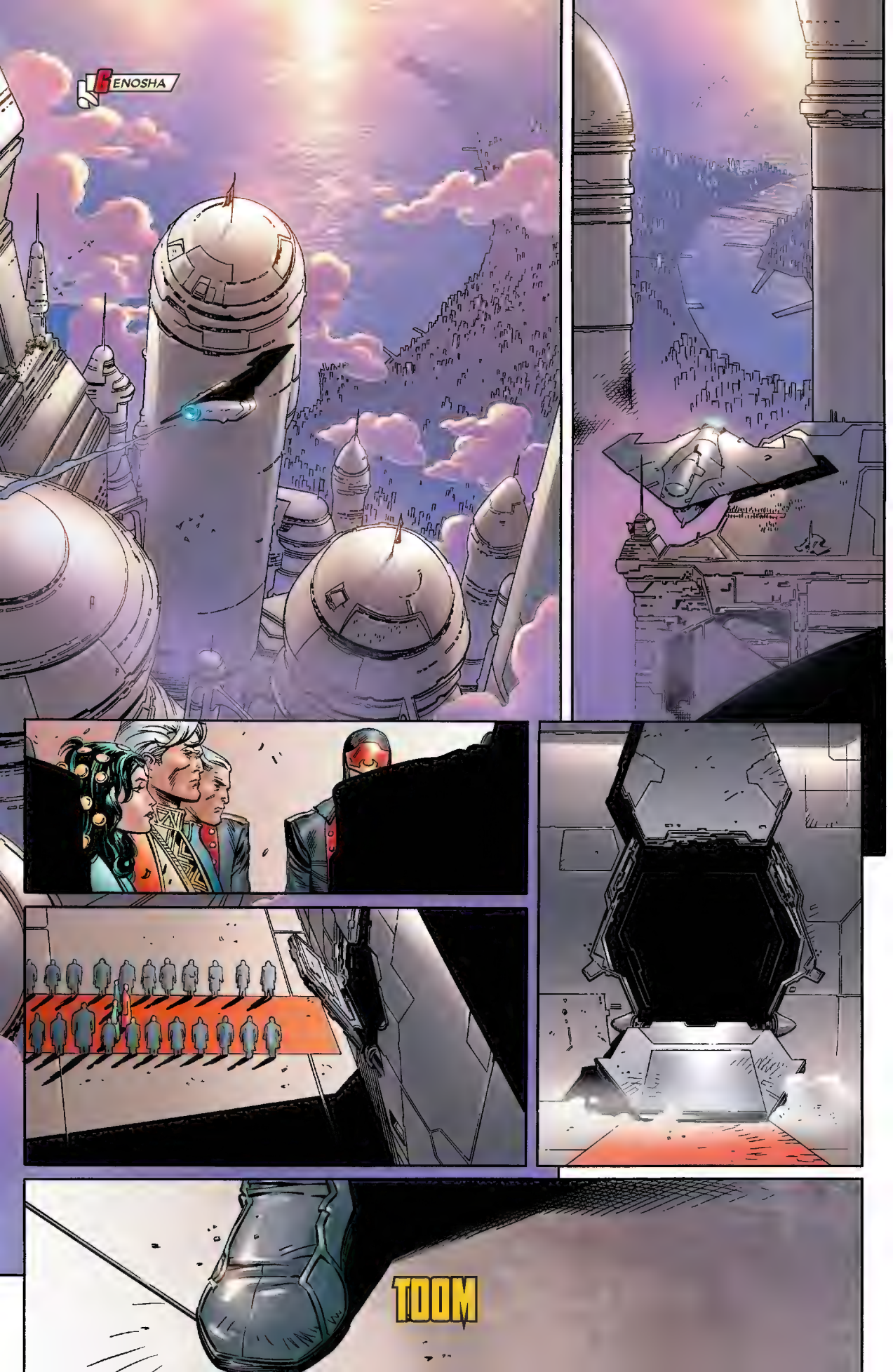

GENOSHA
DADDY?
DADDY?
DADDY, I'VE BEEN CALLING YOU. ARE YOU OKAY?
HMMM?
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE, L-LORNA.
I JUST CAME TO TELL YOU THE GUESTS ARE ARRIVING SOON.
VICTOR VON DOOM WILL BE HERE IN A HALF HOUR.
OKAY.
ENJOY IT, DADDY. THIS IS YOUR DAY.
JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT.

XAVIER
MEMORIAL GARDEN
He died so Genosha could live

HOUSE OF M #6


HELICARRIER, THIS IS SPECIAL AGENT DREW BROADCASTING FROM QUINJET RED-5...
...REQUESTING SECURED APPROACH AND LANDING.
PERMISSION GRANTED.
WELCOME BACK, AGENT DREW.
OKAY, THIS IS CREEPY.
THEY CAN'T SEE OR HEAR US, SPIDER-MAN.
I'M USING MY MUTANT POWERS TO PROJECT 17 SEPARATE MENTAL COMMANDS TO COVER US.
THEY CAN'T SEE US BECAUSE I WON'T LET THEM *THINK* THEY ARE SEEING US.
YEAH, LIKE I SAID: CREEPY.
WHAT'S THE PLAN, EMMA?
COMMAND DECK.
FOLLOW ME.

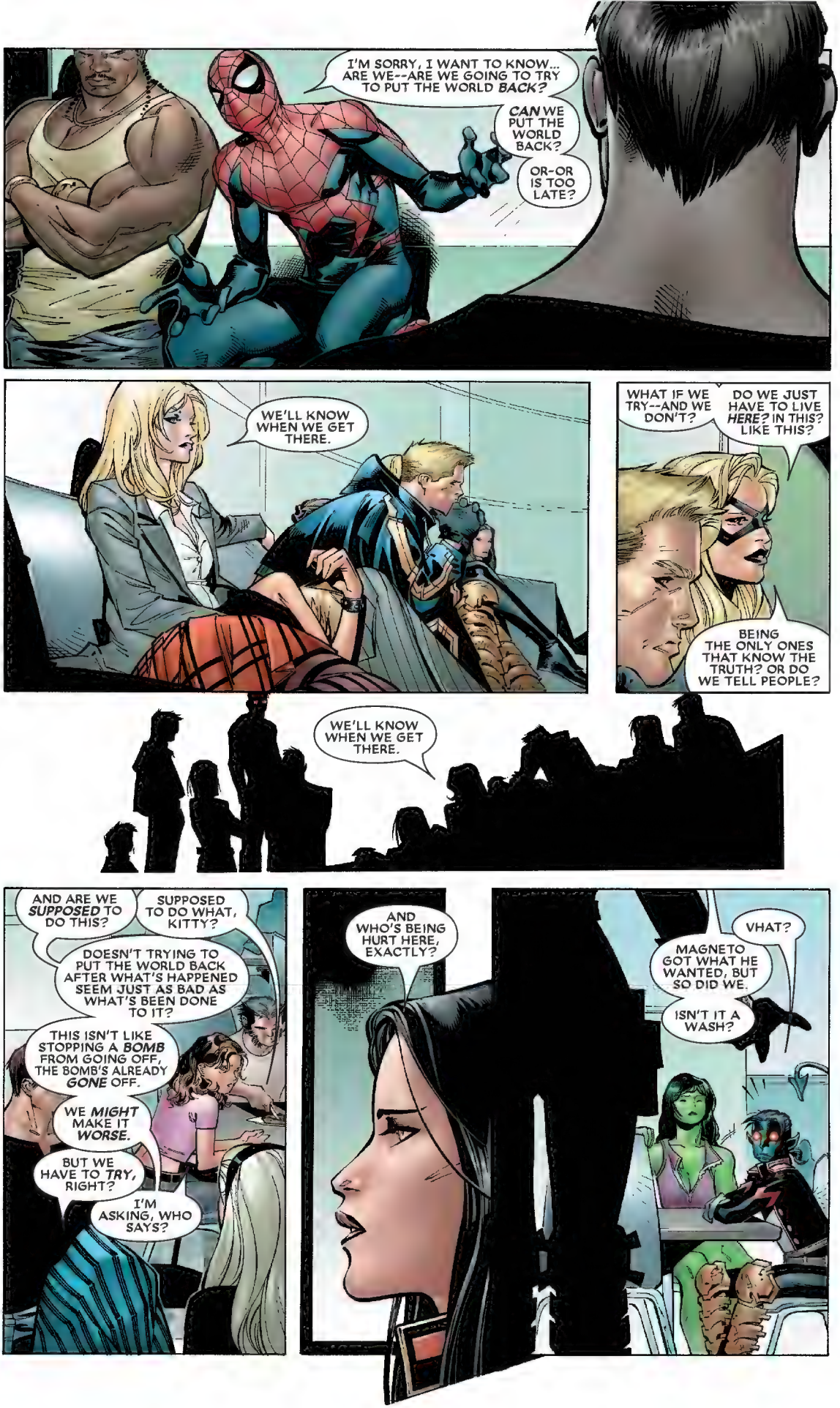
NATASHA ROMANOV IS ON LINE 56.
PATCHING FIELD COMMANDER GARRISON KANE THROUGH THE T9-LINK SATELLITE.
THERE'S A CORROSIVE WEATHER PATTERN OVER WAKANDA.
WHAT ARE YOU? NEW? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
SHAW IS REPORTING IN FROM THE SAVAGE LAND OUTPOST.
ANY WORD ON WEAPON XXXC?
SOME KIND OF FLUCTUATION.
LATVERIA HAS NO AMBASSADOR. HE'S LYING.
WHERE IS THAT COMING FROM?
AGENT SITWELL IS CALLING IN?
I WAS NEVER THERE.
THE BROOD SIGNAL IS OFFLINE.
SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH IT.
COURSE SET, CAPTAIN GREYCROW.
DESTINATION?
GENOSHA.
YES, SIR.


GENOSHA
TOOM

MAGNUS.
VICTOR VON DOOM.
I WAS QUITE SURPRISED TO RECEIVE YOUR R.S.V.P.
DO YOU THINK YOU WERE MORE OR LESS SURPRISED THAN I WAS TO BE INVITED?
YOU'LL STAND FOR SOME PHOTOGRAPHS.
IT IS WHY I'M HERE.
SNAP SNAP SNAP
SNAP SNAP
SNAP SNAP SNAP SNAP

I KNOW IT'S COMMISSARY FOOD, BUT EVERYBODY EAT SOMETHING.
YOU'LL NEED YOUR STRENGTH.
I AIN'T HUNGRY, SCOTT.
AH'M PISSED.
WE ALL ARE, ROGUE. HOLD IT TOGETHER.
"HOLD IT TOGETHER."
WE'LL BE THERE SOON ENOUGH.
LISTING?
JESSICA JONES.
WHAT CITY?
MANHATTAN... (I GUESS).
ONE MOMENT. I HAVE ONE IN QUEENS.
OKAY.
HERE'S THE NUMBER.
THIS IS JESSICA--
J--
--AND THIS IS SCOTT...
...LEAVE A MESSAGE.
BOOP
DID SHE PICK UP?
LUKE?
I DON'T KNOW WHY I JUST DID THAT.
SORRY.
DID YOU TRY TO GET AHOLD OF MARY JANE?
AND TELL HER WHAT?
IT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'D BE LESS SUCCESSFUL IF YOU WERE TOGETHER.
OKAY. LISTEN UP...
UH-HUH.
IT DOESN'T--
EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT WE AREN'T TOGETHER... AND SHE IS.

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ALL FOR A SECOND.
I'VE--UH--I'VE BEEN TEAM LEADER OF THE X-MEN SINCE I WAS A TEENAGER...
...AND IN THAT ENTIRE TIME I'VE ALWAYS *PRIDED* MYSELF ON MY TACTICAL RESTRAINT.
TAKING A MORAL HIGH GROUND WHERE VIOLENCE IS CONCERNED.
BUT TODAY...
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO SAY IT...
IF WE FAIL HERE, IF WE LOSE...
...WE LOSE *EVERYTHING.*
EVERY THING WE HAVE *EVER* BELIEVED IN...
...EVERY FIGHT WE'VE EVER FOUGHT, EVERY BATTLE...
...IT'LL ALL BE--IT'LL ALL HAVE MEANT *NOTHING.*
SO I'M SAYING... THAT WHATEVER RESTRAINT OR PERSONAL BOUNDARIES YOU USUALLY PUT ON YOURSELF IN THE NAME OF GOOD OR RIGHT...
...WELL, I THINK THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ANY OF THAT HERE...IN THE FIGHT WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US.
WE *CAN'T* LOSE THIS.
WE *HAVE* TO WIN.
AND TO DO THAT...YOU, ALL OF YOU, ARE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT WITHOUT *ANY* RESTRAINT.
DOES ANYONE DISAGREE?
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN, SPARKY?
THREE TEAMS.
BUT--WAIT... WAIT...


I'M SORRY, I WANT TO KNOW... ARE WE--ARE WE GOING TO TRY TO PUT THE WORLD *BACK*?
CAN WE PUT THE WORLD BACK?
OR--OR IS TOO LATE?
WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE GET THERE.
WHAT IF WE TRY--AND WE DON'T?
DO WE JUST HAVE TO LIVE *HERE?* IN THIS? LIKE THIS?
BEING THE ONLY ONES THAT KNOW THE TRUTH? OR DO WE TELL PEOPLE?
WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE GET THERE.
AND ARE WE *SUPPOSED* TO DO THIS?
SUPPOSED TO DO WHAT, KITTY?
DOESN'T TRYING TO PUT THE WORLD BACK AFTER WHAT'S HAPPENED SEEM JUST AS BAD AS WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO IT?
THIS ISN'T LIKE STOPPING A *BOMB* FROM GOING OFF, THE BOMB'S ALREADY *GONE* OFF.
WE *MIGHT* MAKE IT *WORSE.*
BUT WE HAVE TO *TRY,* RIGHT?
I'M ASKING, WHO SAYS?
AND WHO'S BEING HURT HERE, EXACTLY?
VHAT?
MAGNETO GOT WHAT HE WANTED, BUT SO DID WE.
ISN'T IT A WASH?

WEREN'T WE HAPPIER HERE? I WAS. I-I *THINK* I WAS.
WASN'T EVERYBODY?
THEY GAVE US WHAT WE ALWAYS WANTED, AND--ISN'T THERE AN ARGUMENT THAT WE *DESERVED* TO GET THIS?
TO BE HAPPY FOR ONCE?
I DON'T KNOW...
MAYBE THIS WAS THE TIME FOR THIS TO HAPPEN.
ONE DAY, JESS...
...YOU'RE GOING TO BE REALLY EMBARRASSED YOU SAID THAT OUT LOUD.
STOP. JUST LISTEN.
MY POINT IS--WHEN SOMETHING OF THIS *MAGNITUDE* HAPPENS...YOU HAVE TO STEP BACK FOR A SECOND AND SAY: MAYBE THIS WAS *TIME* FOR THIS TO HAPPEN.
WHO ARE *WE* TO DECIDE HOW THE WORLD'S SUPPOSED TO BE?
WHEN THE METEORS HIT THE EARTH AND DESTROY A SPECIES--IT'S NATURAL SELECTION, RIGHT?
LIKE KITTY SAID: A METEOR JUST HIT THE EARTH!
MAYBE *THIS* IS HOW MUTANTS BECOME THE NEXT DOMINANT SPECIES.
THAT'S *TWO* THINGS YOU'RE GOING TO BE EMBARRASSED YOU SAID OUT LOUD.
TRANSLATION: YOU DON'T KNOW IF I'M RIGHT OR WRONG AND IT SCARES THE CRAP OUT OF YOU.
AND IT SHOULD.
WE HAVE TO TRY.
WE HAVE TO. WE HAVE TO FIND XAVIER.
SPIDEY?
EXCUSE ME.
JEEZ, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS...
GIVE HIM A MINUTE.
HE'LL GET IT TOGETHER.
EVERYBODY DONE?
OKAY.
THREE TEAMS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...IF I MAY HAVE YOUR ATTENTION...

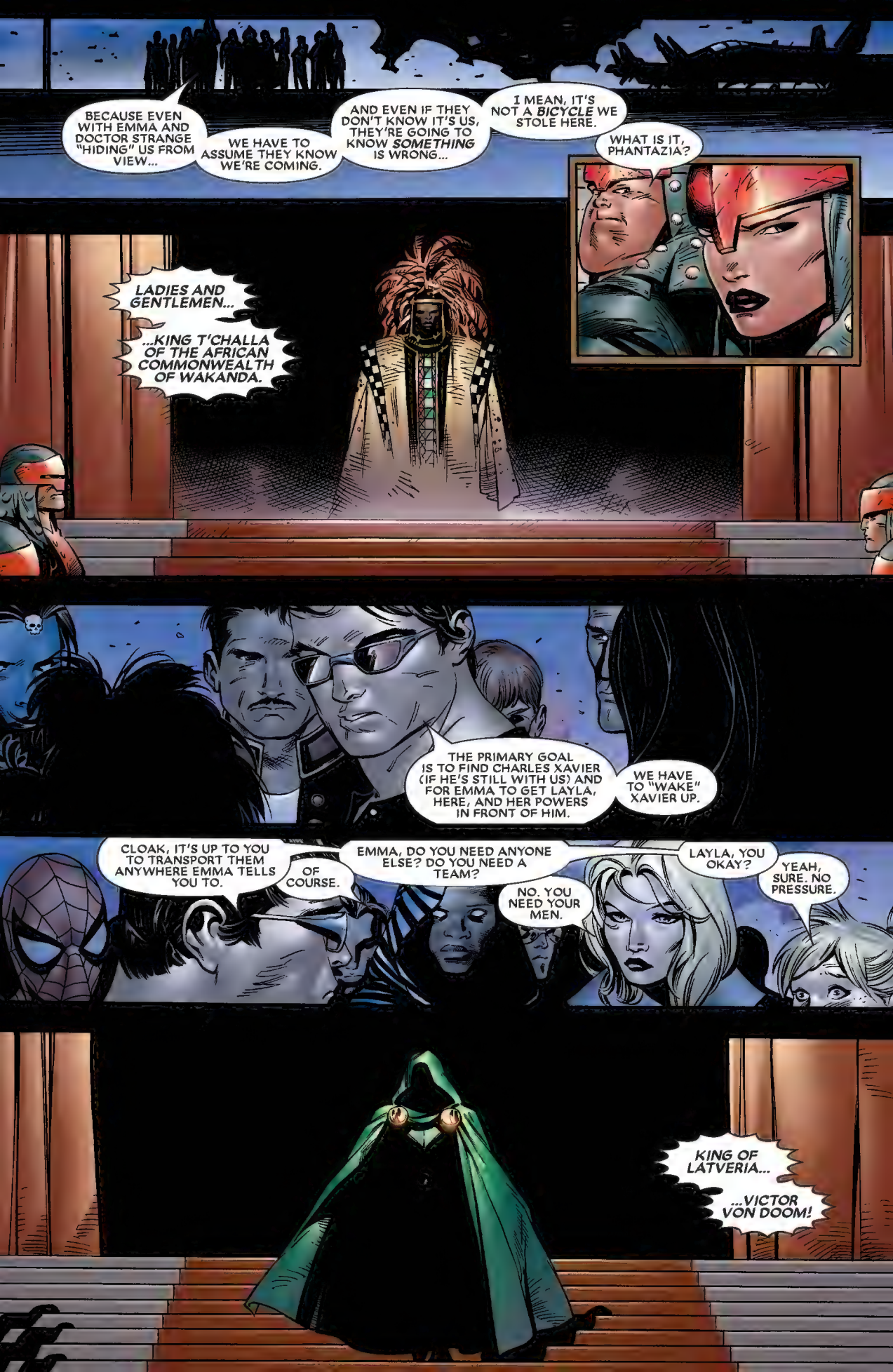
THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS IS HONORED TO HAVE YOU AS THEIR GUESTS.

AND NOW IT IS THE PRIVILEGE OF THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS TO PRESENT TO YOU OUR SPECIAL GUESTS OF HONOR FOR THE EVENING...

WHY THREE TEAMS, SCOTT?

CLAP CLAP CLAP

POP POP POP POP POP


BECAUSE EVEN WITH EMMA AND DOCTOR STRANGE "HIDING" US FROM VIEW...
WE HAVE TO ASSUME THEY KNOW WE'RE COMING.
AND EVEN IF THEY DON'T KNOW IT'S US, THEY'RE GOING TO KNOW *SOMETHING* IS WRONG...
I MEAN, IT'S NOT A *BICYCLE* WE STOLE HERE.
WHAT IS IT, PHANTAZIA?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
...KING T'CHALLA OF THE AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH OF WAKANDA.
THE PRIMARY GOAL IS TO FIND CHARLES XAVIER (IF HE'S STILL WITH US) AND FOR EMMA TO GET LAYLA, HERE, AND HER POWERS IN FRONT OF HIM.
WE HAVE TO "WAKE" XAVIER UP.
CLOAK, IT'S UP TO YOU TO TRANSPORT THEM ANYWHERE EMMA TELLS YOU TO.
OF COURSE.
EMMA, DO YOU NEED ANYONE ELSE? DO YOU NEED A TEAM?
NO. YOU NEED YOUR MEN.
LAYLA, YOU OKAY?
YEAH, SURE. NO PRESSURE.
KING OF LATVERIA...
...VICTOR VON DOOM!

GENIS-VELL.
VISITING DELEGATE ALL THE WAY FROM THE KREE EMPIRE.
DOCTOR STRANGE, YOU'VE HAD SOME LUCK IN THE PAST GETTING THROUGH TO WANDA.
THE ASTRAL PLANE IS A PLACE WHERE I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH HER ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD.
AT LEAST FOR A SHORT TIME.
HOPEFULLY, HOPEFULLY, I'LL BE ABLE TO CUT THROUGH TO THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM.
FIND OUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE.
OF COURSE, THAT DEPENDS A GREAT DEAL ON HER PRESENT STATE OF MIND.
PRINCESS ORORO OF KENYA!!
DO YOU NEED ANYONE ELSE FOR BACK-UP?
NO.
SO, THE REST OF US...?
KING NAMOR OF THE KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS!
WE KEEP THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS OCCUPIED.

GATHERED ROYALS AND HONORED GUESTS...

THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS!!!

UH-OH.

FATHER?
OH MY GOD...

BOOM

DADDY!!

OH MY GOD! OH MY--

FOOOOM

MAGNETO!!!

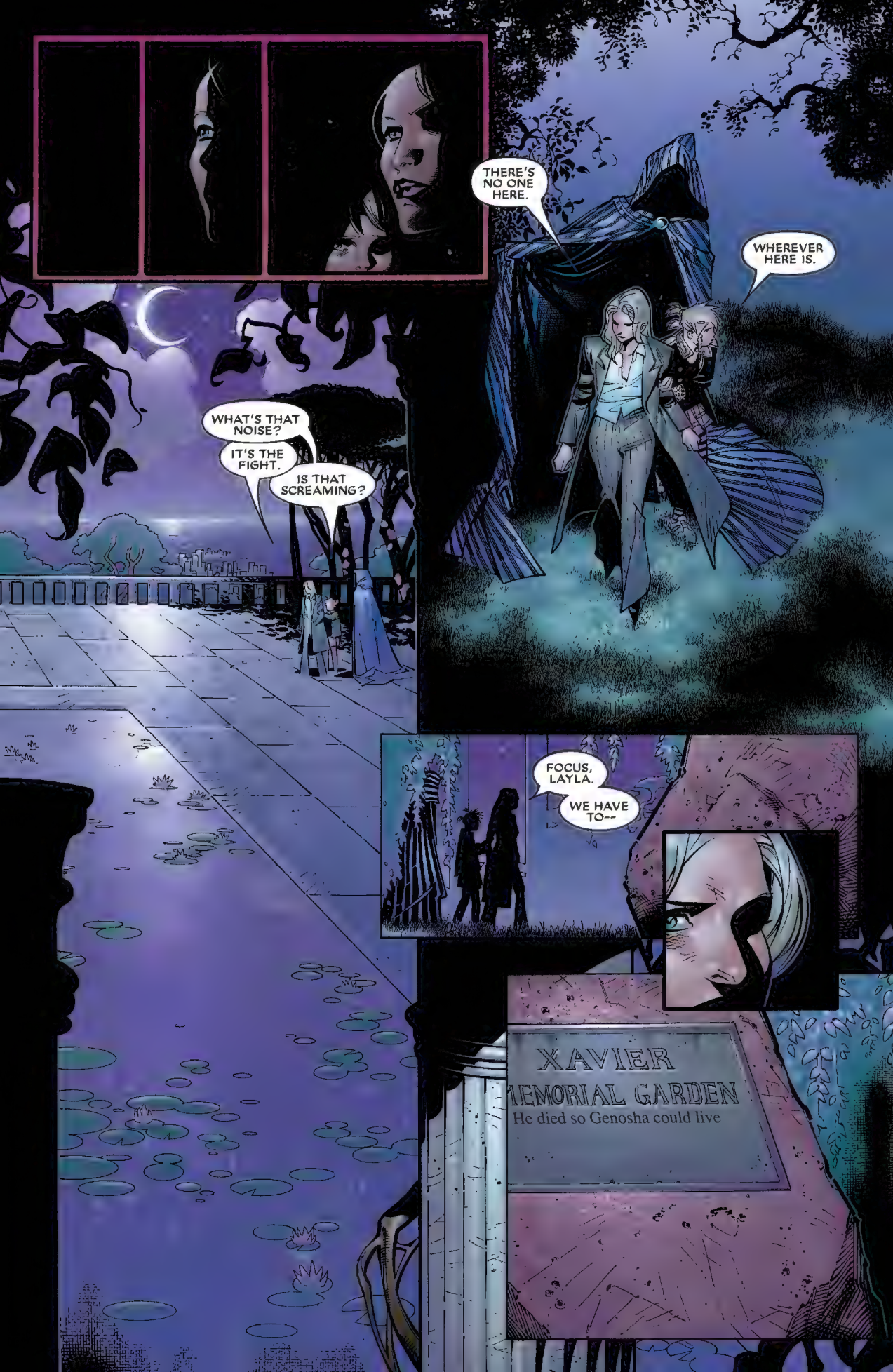
OKAY, SCOTTY! Y'SAID NO HOLDING BACK!

HERE'S SOME NO HOLDIN' BACK!

C'MERE, SUGAHS!!

UNHAND ME, YOU DISGUSTING--!

AGH!


THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
WHEREVER HERE IS.
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
IT'S THE FIGHT.
IS THAT SCREAMING?
FOCUS, LAYLA.
WE HAVE TO--
XAVIER
MEMORIAL GARDEN
He died so Genosha could live

OH MY GOD...
OH NO...
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
IS-- IS THAT IT?
UH...
WAIT.
OH MAN, HE'S NOT GOING TO DRAG UP SOME BONES, IS HE?
AH!
THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
WHAT?
NO COFFIN, NO BODY. JUST DIRT. THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
XAVIER'S NOT HERE.
IT'S NOT OVER YET.

HOUSE OF M #7

WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US??

DON'T STOP!!

KEEP FIGHTING!!

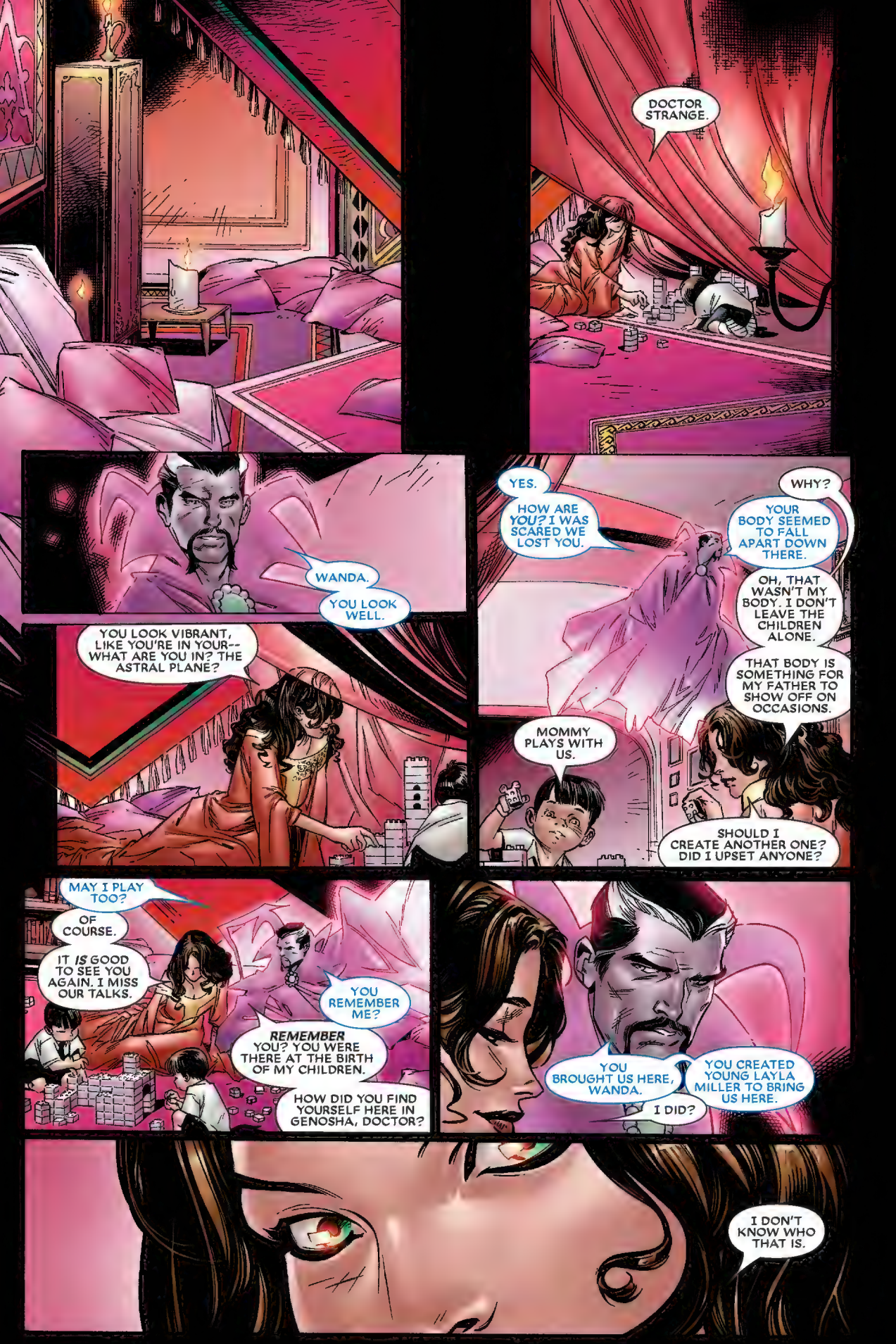
WE CAN'T LOSE THIS!!

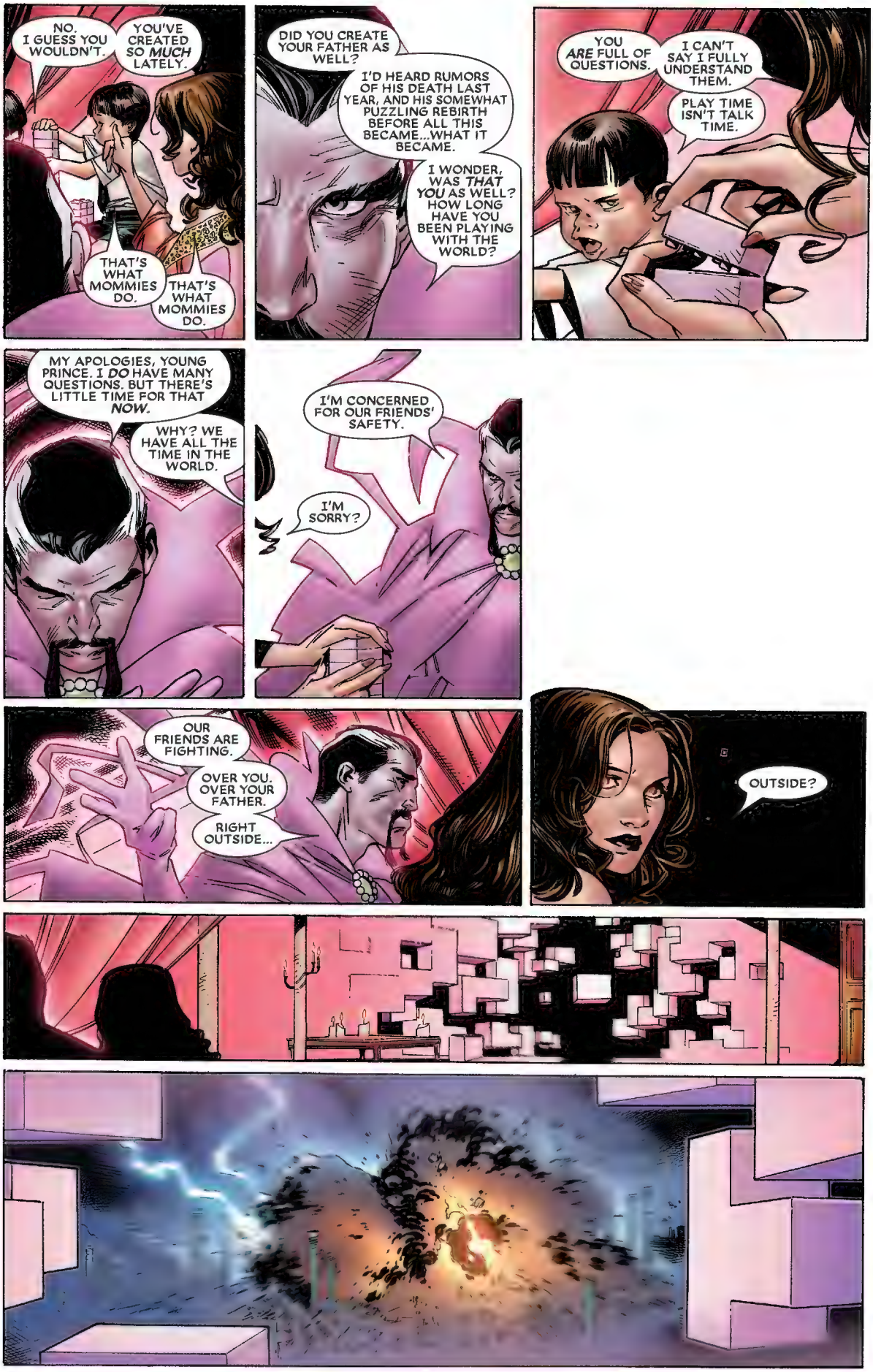
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, ORORO, WE'RE YOUR FAMILY. SO TRY TO TAKE IT A LITTLE EASY ON US.

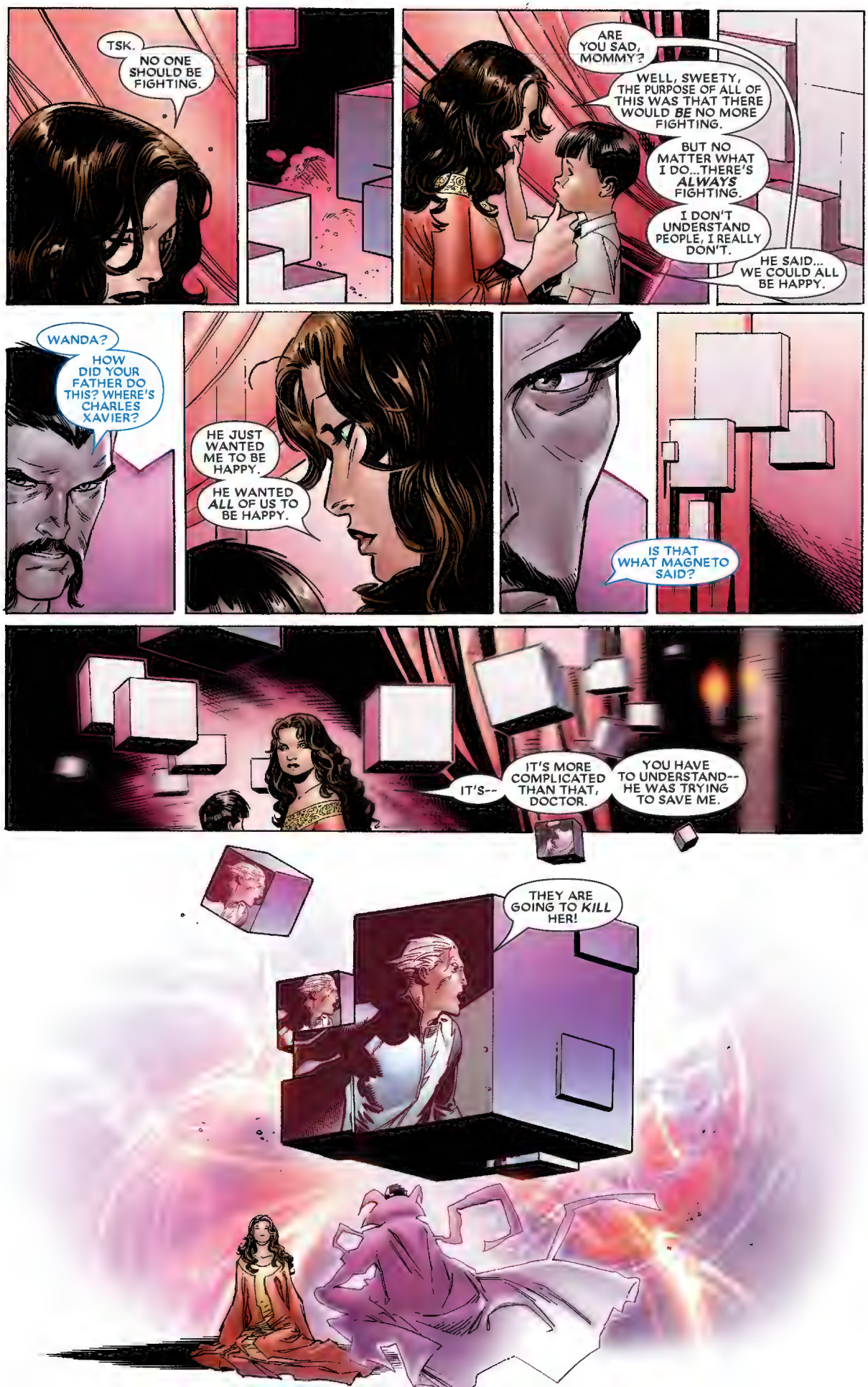
THIS IS MADNESS!

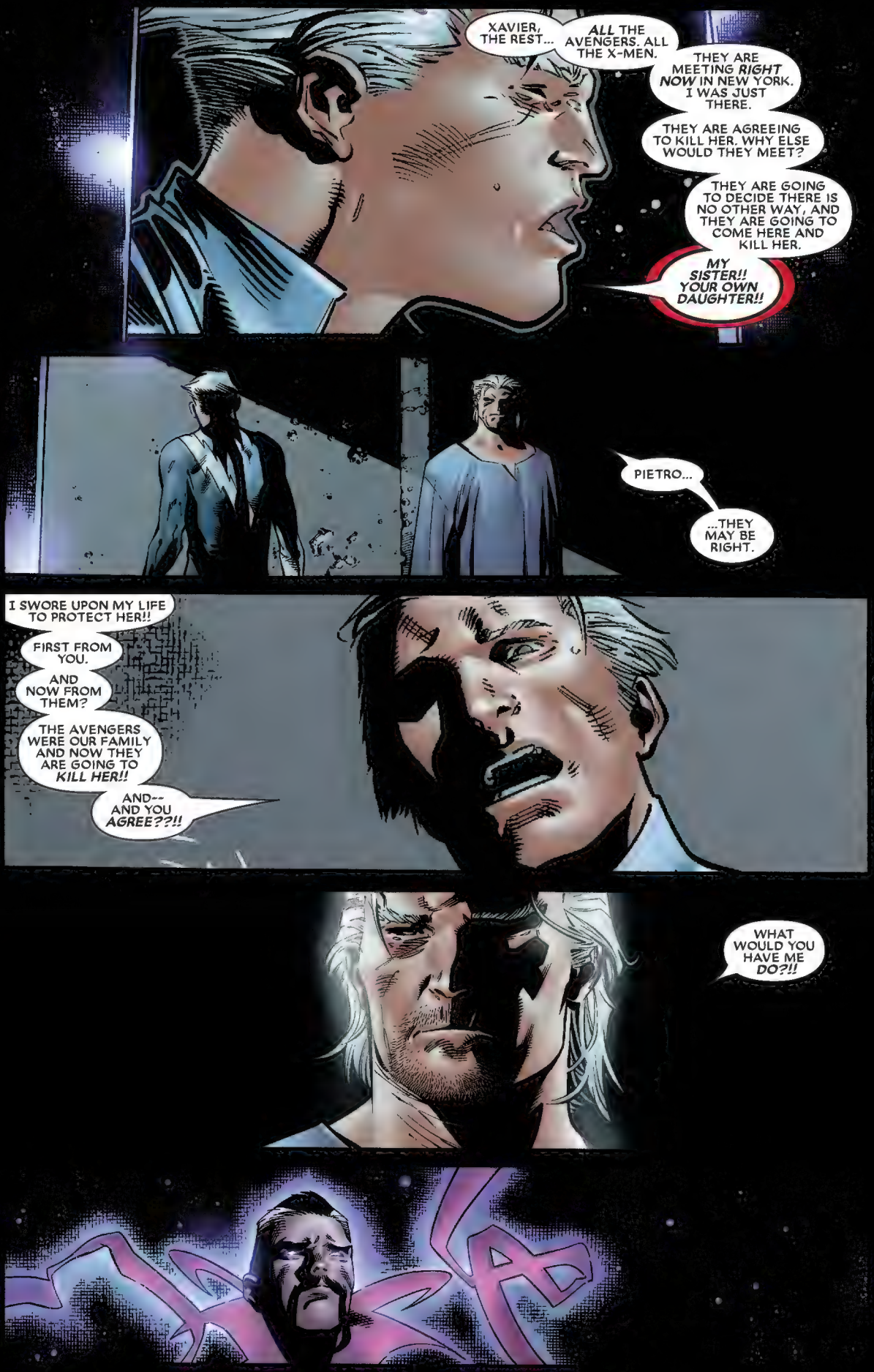
HE'S RIGHT, BOYS!
UNHAND ME, YOU FOUL--
NORMALLY I WOULDN'T DARE RISK USIN' MY MUTANT POWAHS TO SUCK THIS MUCH POWER FROM Y'ALL GUYS LIKE THIS.
BUT WE ARE PLAYIN' TO WIN!
AARRGGHH!!
BOOM
PIETRO, GET WANDA OUT OF HERE AND GO FIND WHERE FATHER LANDED!!
I CAN ONLY KEEP THE MAGNETIC FIELDS FROM--
TH-THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER, LORNA. SHE'S--
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT IS HAPPENING?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY SISTER??!!!

WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING MY FAMILY??!!
WHY DO YOU--
WRONG ONE, SUGAH'!
BOOM
HARRGH!!
NIGHTCRAWLER, WATCH OUR BACKS!
I AM--
BAMF!
--BUT IT'S A LOT--
BAMF!
--OF BACKS--
BAMF!
BAMF!
--TO WATCH!


DOCTOR STRANGE.
WANDA.
YOU LOOK WELL.
YOU LOOK VIBRANT, LIKE YOU'RE IN YOUR-- WHAT ARE YOU IN? THE ASTRAL PLANE?
YES.
HOW ARE *YOU?* I WAS SCARED WE LOST YOU.
WHY?
YOUR BODY SEEMED TO FALL APART DOWN THERE.
OH, THAT WASN'T MY BODY. I DON'T LEAVE THE CHILDREN ALONE.
THAT BODY IS SOMETHING FOR MY FATHER TO SHOW OFF ON OCCASIONS.
MOMMY PLAYS WITH US.
SHOULD I CREATE ANOTHER ONE? DID I UPSET ANYONE?
MAY I PLAY TOO?
OF COURSE.
IT *IS* GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. I MISS OUR TALKS.
YOU REMEMBER ME?
REMEMBER YOU? YOU WERE THERE AT THE BIRTH OF MY CHILDREN.
HOW DID YOU FIND YOURSELF HERE IN GENOSHA, DOCTOR?
YOU BROUGHT US HERE, WANDA.
I DID?
YOU CREATED YOUNG LAYLA MILLER TO BRING US HERE.
I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS.


NO. I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T.
YOU'VE CREATED SO *MUCH* LATELY.
THAT'S WHAT MOMMIES DO.
THAT'S WHAT MOMMIES DO.
DID YOU CREATE YOUR FATHER AS WELL?
I'D HEARD RUMORS OF HIS DEATH LAST YEAR, AND HIS SOMEWHAT PUZZLING REBIRTH BEFORE ALL THIS BECAME...WHAT IT BECAME.
I WONDER, WAS *THAT YOU* AS WELL? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING WITH THE WORLD?
YOU *ARE* FULL OF QUESTIONS.
I CAN'T SAY I FULLY UNDERSTAND THEM.
PLAY TIME ISN'T TALK TIME.
MY APOLOGIES, YOUNG PRINCE. I *DO* HAVE MANY QUESTIONS. BUT THERE'S LITTLE TIME FOR THAT *NOW*.
WHY? WE HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.
I'M CONCERNED FOR OUR FRIENDS' SAFETY.
I'M SORRY?
OUR FRIENDS ARE FIGHTING.
OVER YOU. OVER YOUR FATHER.
RIGHT OUTSIDE...
OUTSIDE?


TSK.
NO ONE SHOULD BE FIGHTING.
ARE YOU SAD, MOMMY?
WELL, SWEETY, THE PURPOSE OF ALL OF THIS WAS THAT THERE WOULD *BE* NO MORE FIGHTING.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT I DO...THERE'S *ALWAYS* FIGHTING.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE, I REALLY DON'T.
HE SAID... WE COULD ALL BE HAPPY.
WANDA?
HOW DID YOUR FATHER DO THIS? WHERE'S CHARLES XAVIER?
HE JUST WANTED ME TO BE HAPPY.
HE WANTED *ALL* OF US TO BE HAPPY.
IS THAT WHAT MAGNETO SAID?
IT'S--
IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT, DOCTOR.
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND-- HE WAS TRYING TO SAVE ME.
THEY ARE GOING TO *KILL* HER!


XAVIER, THE REST...
ALL THE AVENGERS. ALL THE X-MEN.
THEY ARE MEETING RIGHT NOW IN NEW YORK. I WAS JUST THERE.
THEY ARE AGREEING TO KILL HER. WHY ELSE WOULD THEY MEET?
THEY ARE GOING TO DECIDE THERE IS NO OTHER WAY, AND THEY ARE GOING TO COME HERE AND KILL HER.
MY SISTER!! YOUR OWN DAUGHTER!!
PIETRO...
...THEY MAY BE RIGHT.
I SWORE UPON MY LIFE TO PROTECT HER!!
FIRST FROM YOU.
AND NOW FROM THEM?
THE AVENGERS WERE OUR FAMILY AND NOW THEY ARE GOING TO KILL HER!!
AND-- AND YOU AGREE??!!
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?!!

THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HER!!
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO??!!
AGGHHUH!
YOU SHOULDN'T YELL AT HIM, PIETRO.

HE DOESN'T RESPOND WELL.
DID YOU HEAR?
YES. MY FRIENDS ARE COMING.
DON'T BE MAD AT ME, BUT WHEN THEY DO, I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT THEM.
I'LL TAKE YOU FROM HERE.
AND THEY'LL FOLLOW.
NO.
I WILL FIGHT THEM *FOR* YOU. I WON'T LET THEM TAKE YOU FROM ME AGAIN. I WON'T-- I--
IT'S OVER.
NO.
IT SHOULD HAVE ENDED MONTHS AGO.
AM I A COWARD...
...FOR NOT WANTING TO KILL MYSELF?
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW I SHOULD?
IT'LL BE OVER SOON.
I CAN ALREADY HEAR XAVIER'S VOICE IN MY HEAD. HE'S CHECKING ON ME.
(I WISH I COULD TELL IF ANY OF THIS WAS REAL.)
WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE.
MAGNUS CHOSE HIS "*MUTANT RACE*" OVER US.
WE WERE JUST LITTLE KIDS, AND HE ABANDONED US.
EVEN SO-- WE FOUGHT SO HARD TO GET OUT FROM UNDER IT ALL.

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A FAMILY.
HOW WAS IT SUPPOSED TO BE?
YES.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE GREAT HEROES.
WE WERE, FOR A BIT.
I LIKED BEING AN AVENGER MORE THAN I EVER SAID.
ME TOO. AND LOOK WHAT I DID TO THEM.
I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO TAKE IT BACK.
YOU COULD--
WHAT?
YOU COULD TAKE IT BACK.
YOU COULD MAKE... EVERYONE HAPPY.
I CAN'T CONTROL IT.
WHAT IF I WAS THERE TO HELP YOU?
YOU AND I TOGETHER.
XAVIER'S MIND INSIDE YOU, YOUR POWERS AS THEY ARE NOW. YOU CAN USE HIS POWERS AND YOURS TOGETHER.
REALLY--THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN'T DO.
IN AN INSTANT--IN AN INSTANT NOT ONLY COULD WE HAVE WHAT WE DESERVE--
--YOU COULD GIVE IT TO OUR FRIENDS AS WELL. FATHER COULD BE GIVEN EVERYTHING HE DREAMED OF.
WE CAN FINALLY BE A FAMILY.
THEY'D ALL BE HAPPY.
THEY WOULDN'T BOTHER US ANYMORE.
PIETRO, I CAN'T--

WE BECAME--THE REASON WE BECAME AVENGERS WAS TO TRY TO CHANGE THINGS... FOR THE BETTER.
YOU *CAN* CHANGE THINGS.
FOR THE BETTER. *PERMANENTLY*. WITHOUT FIGHTING.
RIGHT NOW.
YOU CAN MAKE ANYONE YOU'VE EVER LOVED HAPPY.
WHY WOULD YOU BE GIVEN ALL THIS POWER IF *NOT* FOR THIS REASON?
IT MIGHT BE THAT THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE *SUPPOSED* TO DO.
AND IF YOU DON'T--WANDA--IF YOU DON'T, THEY'LL *KILL* YOU.
AND WE'LL *NEVER* BE TOGETHER EVER AGAIN.
IT WASN'T MAGNETO.

"IT WAS PIETRO."
YOU'RE MAKING MOMMY SAD.
EMMA, ARE YOU LISTENING?
ASK HER ABOUT XAVIER.
WE NEED TO FIND XAVIER.
MS. FROST, WHO ARE YOU--?
LAYLA, SHH. DOCTOR, ASK HER ABOUT THE--
WANDA, WHERE IS CHARLES--?
CHUK

MOMMY?
OH MY GOD...
MS. FROST?
WHO *ARE* YOU?
AND WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING MY FAMILY?
HOLY JEEZ!
LAYLA, GET--

CLINT BARTON.

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

WHY??

YOU'RE ASKING ME *WHY*?!!

ARE YOU MAD AT ME?

HAWKEYE, NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO--

AM I "*MAD*" AT YOU? FOR *KILLING* ME, YOU MEAN?

MAD JUST DON'T SEEM TO COVER IT.

BUT I WAS HOPING IF I COULDN'T KILL YOU FOR ALL THE %?&$ YOU'VE DONE--

--I THOUGHT AT LEAST MAYBE I'D SNAP YOU OUT OF YOUR CRAZY!!

WE WERE *FRIENDS*, WANDA. TEAMMATES.

I TRULY LOVED YOU. I'D KILL *FOR* YOU.

I LOVE YOU TOO.

THEN WHY DID YOU *KILL ME*?!!

WHY DID YOU DO THIS??

I BROUGHT YOU BACK.

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE--

SHUT UP!!

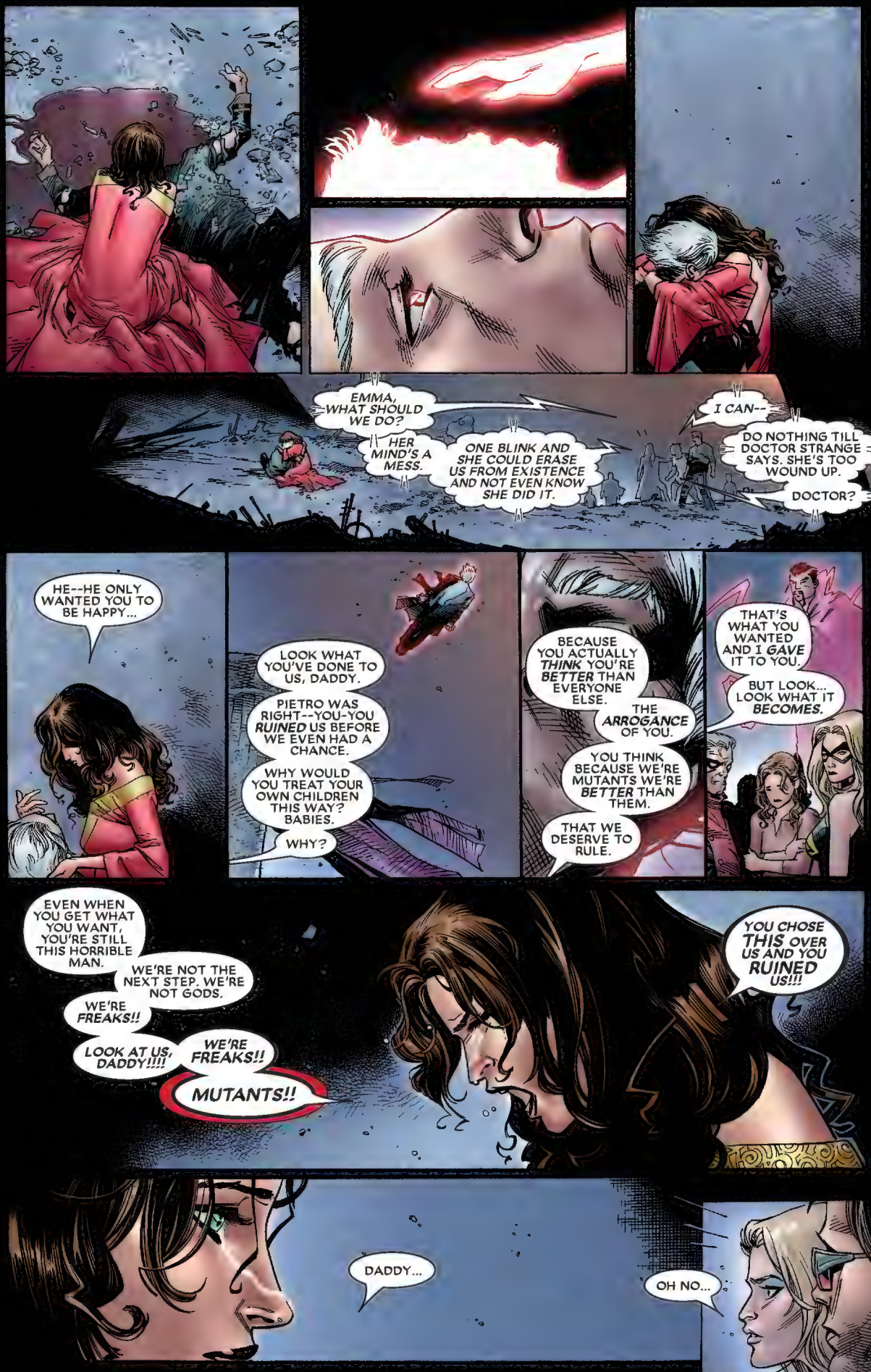
I-I--
WANDA?
MOMMY!
I-I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.
DON'T BE SAD, MOMMY.
HE WAS SO MAD AT ME. I WAS--I NEEDED TO PROTECT MY CHILDREN. THE CHILDREN HAVE TO BE--
WANDA, LISTEN TO ME...
I-I CAN'T CONTROL ANY OF IT.

WATCH OUT FOR--
--PIET--
--RO!!
THIS ENDS!!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE IN MY NAME, BOY!!??
YOU WERE GOING TO LET THEM KILL HER!!
YOU USED HER AND YOU USED ME!!
I WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED THIS!!!

YOU'VE DESTROYED EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE!!
BOOM
SPOK
AND YOU USED MY NAME TO DO IT!!
BOOM
WHAT RIGHT?!!
WHAT RIGHT?!!
KWHAM
NOOOOOO!

BROTHER.
OOF!
AG!
WANDA, YOU SHALL--


EMMA, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
HER MIND'S A MESS.
ONE BLINK AND SHE COULD ERASE US FROM EXISTENCE AND NOT EVEN KNOW SHE DID IT.
I CAN--
DO NOTHING TILL DOCTOR STRANGE SAYS. SHE'S TOO WOUND UP.
DOCTOR?
HE--HE ONLY WANTED YOU TO BE HAPPY...
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO US, DADDY.
PIETRO WAS RIGHT--YOU-YOU RUINED US BEFORE WE EVEN HAD A CHANCE.
WHY WOULD YOU TREAT YOUR OWN CHILDREN THIS WAY? BABIES.
WHY?
BECAUSE YOU ACTUALLY THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE.
THE ARROGANCE OF YOU.
YOU THINK BECAUSE WE'RE MUTANTS WE'RE BETTER THAN THEM.
THAT WE DESERVE TO RULE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED AND I GAVE IT TO YOU.
BUT LOOK... LOOK WHAT IT BECOMES.
EVEN WHEN YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT, YOU'RE STILL THIS HORRIBLE MAN.
WE'RE NOT THE NEXT STEP. WE'RE NOT GODS.
WE'RE FREAKS!!
LOOK AT US, DADDY!!!!
WE'RE FREAKS!!
MUTANTS!!
YOU CHOSE THIS OVER US AND YOU RUINED US!!!
DADDY...
OH NO...

NO MORE MUTANTS.

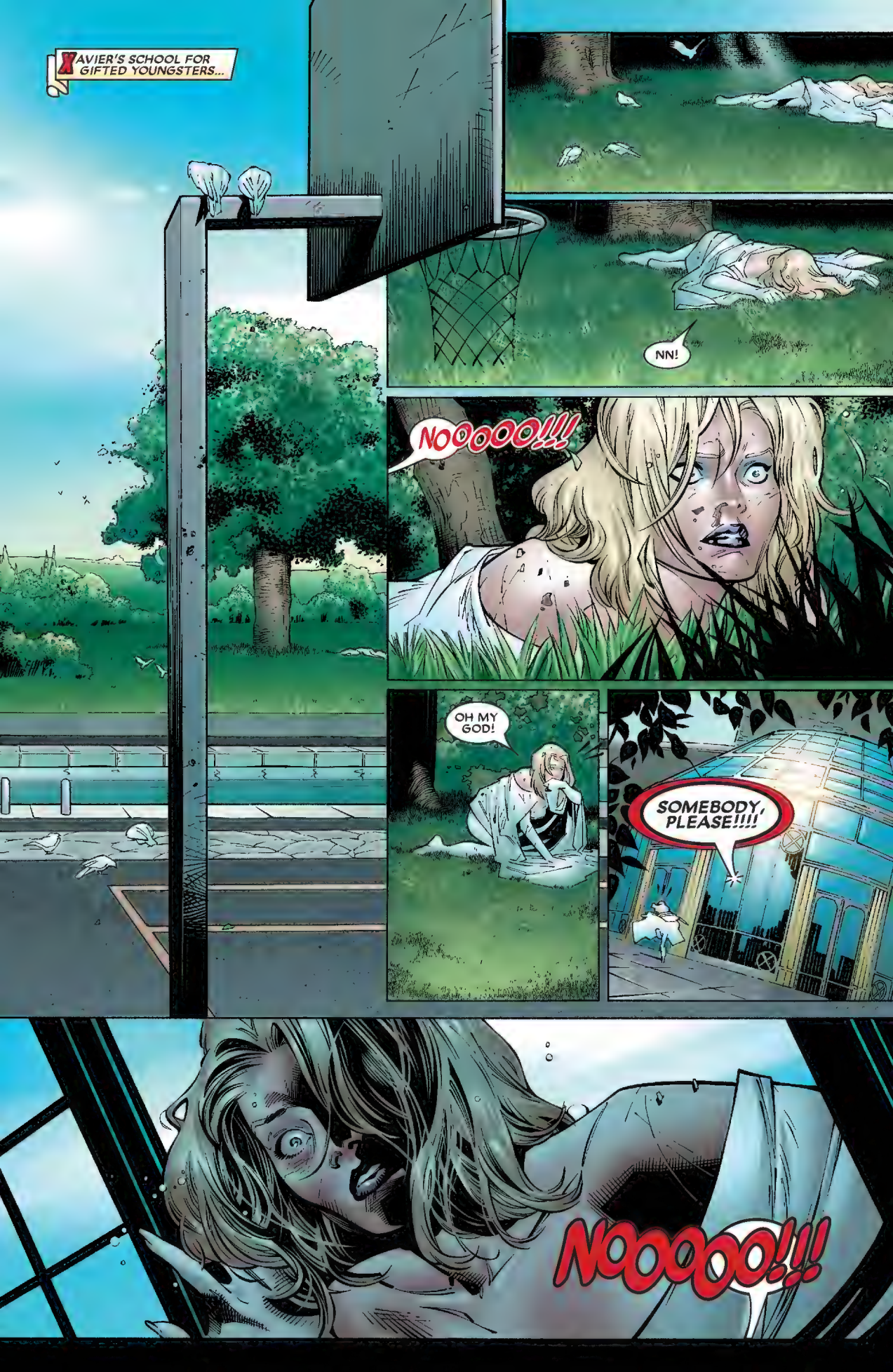
HOUSE OF M #8

LAYLA ROSE MILLER, YOU ARE GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!!
GET UP!!

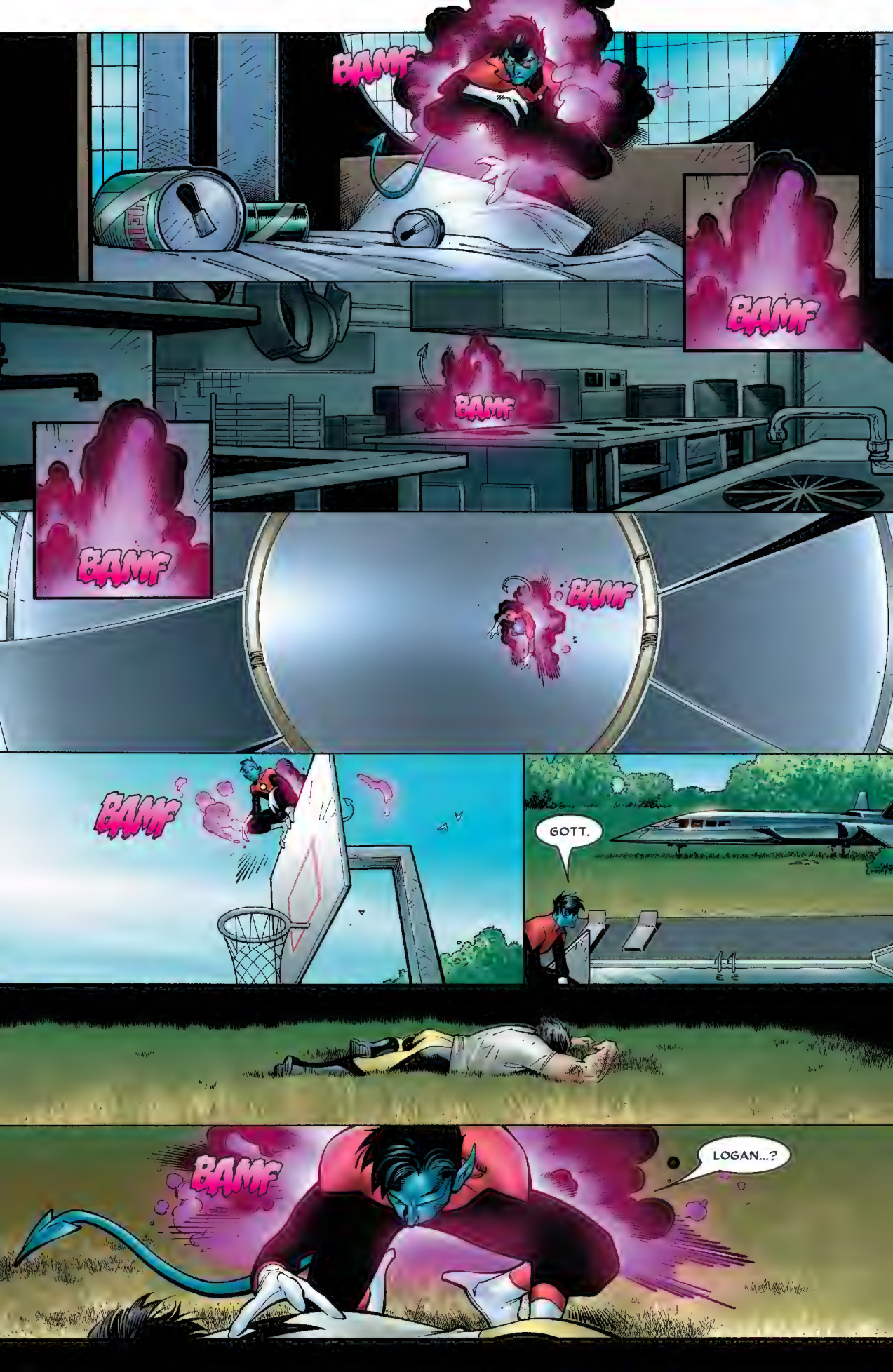
AVENGERS TOWER...
YOU OKAY, MR. PARKER?
HEADACHE.
TRY NOT GETTING HIT ON THE HEAD BY BIG MECHANICAL OCTOPUS ARMS SO MUCH.
YEAH.

OKAY, WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*
ONE MINUTE WE'RE IN GENOSHA FIGHTING-- FIGHTING JUST ABOUT *EVERYTHING* AND *EVERYONE*...
...AND THE NEXT I'M TUCKED IN MY BED.
WAS IT THE SAME FOR EVERYONE, SHE-HULK?
UH, *WHERE* WERE WE?
I'M A LITTLE CONFUSED, JENNIFER. I WAS JUST HERE AND THEN I--
LET'S JUST WAIT FOR EVERYONE TO SHOW UP AND WE'LL...
PETE?
YEAH.
YOU OKAY? MJ?
YOU REMEMBER?
MJ DOESN'T REMEMBER.
REMEMBER *WHAT?*
ANYONE ELSE FEEL LIKE SCREAMING?
GENTLEMEN, LADIES...
WHO CALLED THE MEETING THIS--
HOW--WAIT-- HOW ARE WE *HERE*? WE WERE JUST THERE, AND NOW WE'RE HERE.
WHERE?
IRON MAN, YOU DON'T REMEMBER EITHER?
REMEMBER WHAT, LUKE?
AAAUUUAARRGGH!
JEEZ!
WHAM

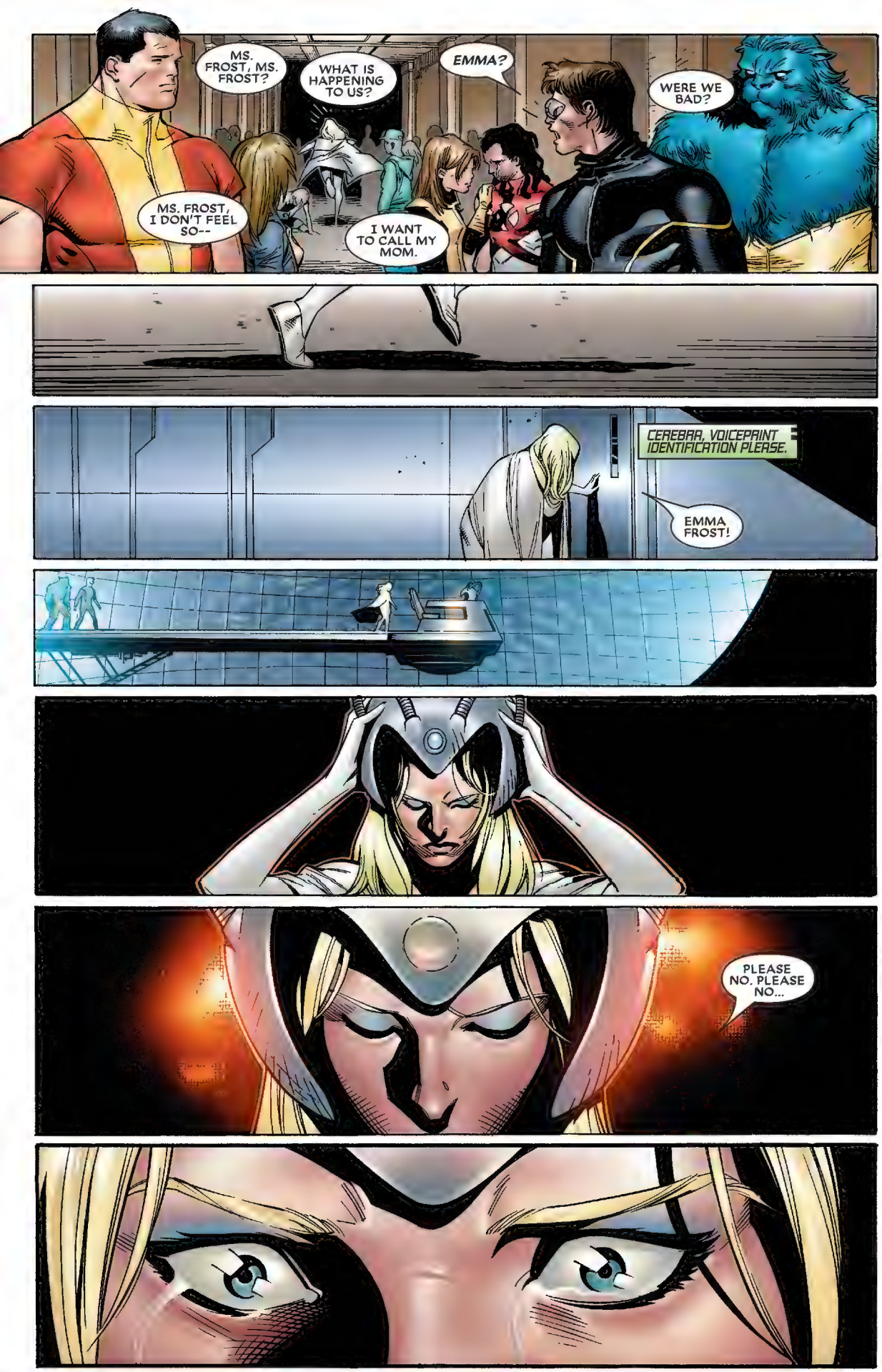
HEY!
YOU'LL BUY A NEW ONE.
WHAM
CRACK
BUT-BUT EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL NOW.
RIGHT?
EVERYTHING SEEMS...OKAY NOW.
NOT QUITE.
NOT...


XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...
NN!
NOOOOO!!!
OH MY GOD!
SOMEBODY, PLEASE!!!!
NOOOOO!!!

EMMA, EMMA...
THE STUDENTS!
ARE YOU OKAY, KURT?
VHAT IS GOING ON? HOW ARE VE *HERE* WHEN VE VERE JUST *DERE*?
WHERE *WERE* YOU?
"NO MORE MUTANTS." SHE SAID, "NO MORE MUTANTS!"
I-I'M FINE. IS SHE--?
KITTY, ARE YOU--?
SHE FAINTED.
MS. FROST, IS SOPHIA GOING TO BE--?
SHE FAINTED. SHE'S FINE. EVERYTHING'S FINE.
BUT SHE LOST HER POWERS!
"NO MORE MUTANTS..."
I STILL HAVE MY POWERS. MAYBE WE--OH NO... LOGAN!
IF HE TOO LOST HIS ABILITIES, THE ADAMANTIUM--
--IN HIS SKELETON WOULD KILL HIM! KURT--
I'M GONE.


BAMF
BAMF
BAMF
BAMF
BAMF
BAMF
GOTT.
BAMF
LOGAN...?

I REMEMBER.
MY WHOLE LIFE...
I REMEMBER ALL OF IT.


MS. FROST, MS. FROST?
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO US?
EMMA?
WERE WE BAD?
MS. FROST, I DON'T FEEL SO--
I WANT TO CALL MY MOM.
CEREBRA, VOICEPRINT IDENTIFICATION PLEASE.
EMMA FROST!
PLEASE NO. PLEASE NO...

EMMA, IS THAT--?

IS THAT--?

I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE I WAS FOURTEEN. I KNOW WHAT CEREB--

SCOTT, CEREBRA WAS CREATED TO LOCATE MUTANT ACTIVITY ALL OVER THE WORLD.

I'M TELLING YOU--IT'S ON FULL POWER.

THIS-THIS--RIGHT NOW, THIS IS *ALL* THE MUTANTS... ON THE PLANET.

THERE WERE...

TENS OF THOUSANDS.

A MILLION, MAYBE?

NOT ANYMORE.

ARE THEY DEAD?

NO. NOT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL.

JUST NOT...MUTANTS ANYMORE.

I-I TRIED TO STOP HER--I TRIED--

WHERE'S WANDA MAXIMOFF?

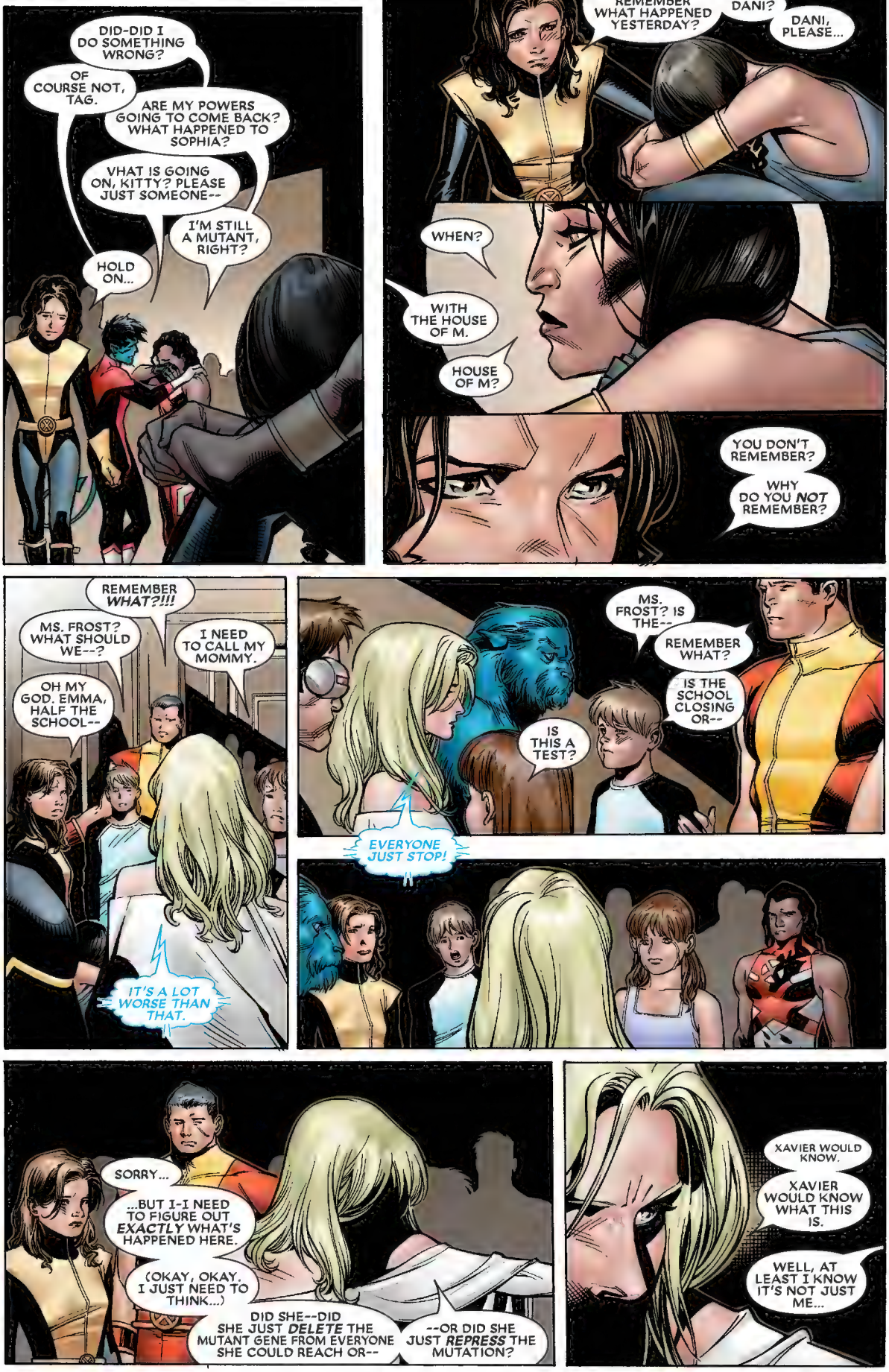
I DON'T SEE HER.

I DON'T--I DON'T--I DON'T SEE ANYONE.

XAVIER?

EMMA!! FIND XAVIER!

HE'S NOT...


DID-DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
OF COURSE NOT, TAG.
ARE MY POWERS GOING TO COME BACK? WHAT HAPPENED TO SOPHIA?
WHAT IS GOING ON, KITTY? PLEASE JUST SOMEONE--
I'M STILL A MUTANT, RIGHT?
HOLD ON...
DANI, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY?
DANI?
DANI, PLEASE...
WHEN?
WITH THE HOUSE OF M.
HOUSE OF M?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
WHY DO YOU NOT REMEMBER?
REMEMBER WHAT?!!!
MS. FROST? WHAT SHOULD WE--?
I NEED TO CALL MY MOMMY.
OH MY GOD. EMMA, HALF THE SCHOOL--
IT'S A LOT WORSE THAN THAT.
MS. FROST? IS THE--
REMEMBER WHAT?
IS THE SCHOOL CLOSING OR--
IS THIS A TEST?
EVERYONE JUST STOP!
SORRY...
..BUT I-I NEED TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE.
(OKAY, OKAY, I JUST NEED TO THINK...)
DID SHE--DID SHE JUST DELETE THE MUTANT GENE FROM EVERYONE SHE COULD REACH OR--
--OR DID SHE JUST REPRESS THE MUTATION?
XAVIER WOULD KNOW.
XAVIER WOULD KNOW WHAT THIS IS.
WELL, AT LEAST I KNOW IT'S NOT JUST ME...

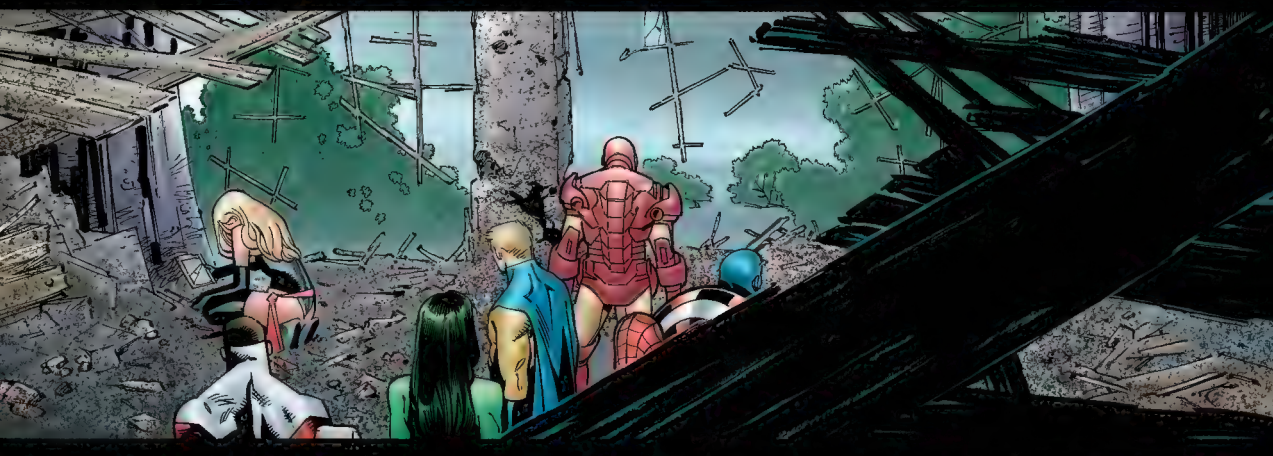
THOUGHT IT WAS JUST *WAAAAY* HOT IN HERE.
SO, WHAT?
IS THAT IT FOR ICEMAN?
OH, BOBBY...
...NOT YOU TOO.
THE NEWS IS COMING IN FAST AND FURIOUS NOW FROM ALL PARTS OF THE GLOBE.

LIVE
AND WE'LL TRY TO GET IT TO YOU AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN.
WE'RE RECEIVING WIDESPREAD REPORTS OF--WAIT.
MUTANT EPIDEMIC
THE WHITE HOUSE--OKAY--THE WHITE HOUSE IS ABOUT TO MAKE A STATEMENT.
WE'RE GOING TO GO THERE LIVE RIGHT NOW.
THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY IS ABOUT TO ADDRESS THE PRESS CORPS. LET'S LISTEN IN LIVE...
LIVE
GOOD MORNING.
THE WHITE HOUSE HAS CONFIRMED THAT THIS MORNING, HUNDREDS, IF NOT THOUSANDS OF MUTANTS--
--AS THEY ARE CALLED IN THE POPULAR VERNACULAR--
--THOSE WHO CARRY WHAT IS REFERRED TO AS THE "MUTANT GENE" HAVE SEEMINGLY SPONTANEOUSLY LOST THAT GENE ENTIRELY AND THE ABILITIES THAT COME AS A RESULT.
LIVE
BRIEFING ON MUTANT EPIDEMIC
THE WHITE HOUSE IS STILL ASSESSING EXACTLY WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND WHAT THIS MEANS AND JUST HOW WIDESPREAD THIS "OCCURRENCE" IS.
KNN
WE HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S TOP SCIENTIFIC AIDES LOOKING OVER THE INFORMATION AS WELL AS FEMA, S.H.I.E.L.D., REED RICHARDS, AND THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL--
--AS WELL AS THE NEWLY-FORMED OFFICE FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCY--
--AND WE WILL GET THAT INFORMATION OUT TO THE PUBLIC AS SOON AS WE CAN.
IF I MAY ADDRESS ONE POINT--THE RUMOR THAT THIS IS A RESULT OF A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM OF ANY KIND IS COMPLETELY UNTRUE.
THERE IS NO ANTI-MUTANT AGENDA OR EXISTING PROGRAM IN THIS GOVERNMENT OR THIS ADMINISTRATION.
AND I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH THAT THERE WAS NO ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES TO BRING ON WHATEVER KIND OF "EPIDEMIC" THIS MAY BE.
HAS A VIRUS BEEN RULED OUT?
A MUTANT VIRUS?
AT THIS TIME, NOTHING HAS BEEN RULED OUT.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS? HAS ANYONE STEPPED FORWARD TO CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY?
NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.
HAS THE U.N. RULED OUT ANOTHER COUNTRY WITH ANY KIND OF ANTI-MUTANT AGENDA?
THAT'S ALL WE HAVE RIGHT NOW.
HOW ABOUT THE X-MEN?
THAT'S ALL WE--
OH MY GOD...
...THE X-MEN...

TONY, TURN THE VOLUME UP ON THIS ONE...
--HAVE FORETOLD THIS IN THE SCRIPTURE FOR YEARS NOW, AND NOW THE CLEANSING HAS FINALLY BEGUN.
THE ABOMINATION OF HUMANITY THAT WAS "MUTANTKIND" IS NOW SEEN TO BE WHAT IT ALWAYS WAS...A DISEASE OF OUR OWN DECADENCE AND INDULGENCES.
GOD'S WILL HAS BEEN DONE, AND NOW IT IS UP TO MAN TO FINISH HIS WORK.
NEVER MIND. TURN THE IDIOT OFF.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF ANY HOUSE OF M--OF THIS--HAPPENING.
NEITHER DO I.
WE BELIEVE YOU, OF COURSE--EVERY WORD. WE-WE JUST WOKE UP AND HERE WE ARE.
AIN'T WE LUCKY.
I THINK--I SERIOUSLY THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.
IT WOULD SEEM ONLY THOSE WHO WERE THERE AT THE EVENT--
--THOSE PROTECTED BY EMMA FROST'S PSYCHIC DEFENSE AND MY SPELL-CASTING-- REMEMBER THE EVENTS AS THEY TRANSPIRED.
DOCTOR STRANGE, CAN YOU LOCATE WANDA MAXIMOFF?
YEAH, YEAH, YOU HAD SAID ONCE THAT THE MAGICS SHE USED CREATED A-A--
A MAP. YES.
I TRIED THIS A FEW TIMES BEFORE I CAME OVER HERE.
I CAN'T-- I CAN'T FIND ANY SIGN OF HER.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR?
MY DUTIES AS MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS ARE SIMPLE.
PROTECT THIS WORLD FROM AN ATTACK JUST LIKE THIS.
I FAILED.
COMPLETELY.

DOCTOR, COULD YOU-- UM--
COULD YOU USE SOME OF THAT MAGIC WHAMMY ON ME SO I JUST TOTALLY FORGET WHAT HAPPENED?
THAT'S NOT HOW THE MAGICS WORK.
YEAH, WELL, I'M GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO GO IN THERE AND SCOOP IT RIGHT OUT.
I CAN'T--I'M SORRY.
I SAID, TAKE IT OUT!!!
DON'T.
SORRY.
SO WHAT? WE GO TO THE PRESS WITH THIS, RIGHT?
TELL THEM WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENED.
AND TELL THEM *WHAT?*
TO ROUND UP WHAT'S LEFT OF MUTANTKIND BEFORE IT HAPPENS AGAIN?
UM, SIRS...
YEAH, YEAH, I SEE IT.
WHAT?
THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE MANSION.

WHERE?
THIS WAY.
WHAT IS THIS?



...ER HAWKEYE DEAD

MYSTERY SURROUNDS THE FALLEN HERO'S FATE

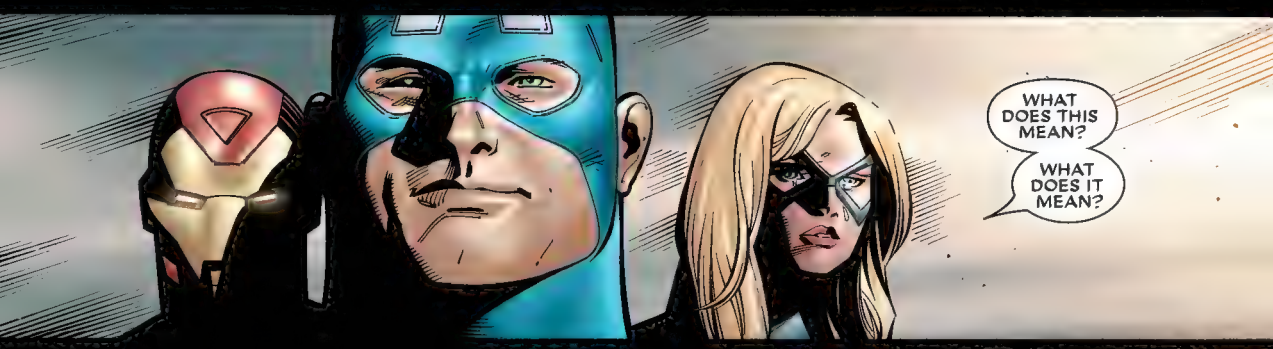
By Kat Farrell

Government authorities and representatives of the Avengers have confirmed that costumed hero Hawkeye was, as previously rumored, part of the destruction that fell on Avengers Mansion early this week. He joins the confirmed deaths of Scott Lang, a.k.a. Ant-Man, and the Vision.

Hawkeye was one of the elder statesmen of the perennial supergroup. His colorful statements to the press and public confrontations with Captain America kept him a fan favorite during the many incarnations of the Avengers.

There will be no funeral service or memorial at the deceased's request.

A heavy veil of national security still surrounds the events of last Wednesday, but authorities tell the Daily Bugle that this was not only one of the worst days in Avengers history, but when the entire story is told to the public, it will go down in history as one



GENOSHA...
WHERE IS SHE, MAGNUS?

WHERE IS SHE?!!
FAM
I DON'T KNOW.
SNIKT
LOST YOUR POWER OVER METAL, HAVE YUH?
SNAKT
I DIDN'T!!
SNIKT

STOP.
WHERE'S CHARLES XAVIER?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHERE'S YOUR SON PIETRO?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHERE'S YOUR DAUGHTER?
I DON'T KNOW!!
HE'S NOT LYING.
THEN WE'RE JUST ABOUT OUTTA REASONS TO KEEP YOU ON THIS PLANET.
GUYS...
...HE DIDN'T DO THIS.
YEAH.
AND THE WAY I SEE IT--HE DESERVES EVERY *SECOND* OF THE REST OF HIS CRAP "SAPIEN" LIFE.
WHEN WE FIND YOUR KIDS...
...AND WE *WILL*...
...WE'LL BE SURE TO SAY HI FOR YOU.
BEFORE WE SIGN OFF, WE TURN TO REKNOWNED SCIENTIST AND ADVENTURER DOCTOR HENRY PYM, WHO JOINS US LIVE FROM OUR LONDON OFFICE.
DOCTOR, YOUR THOUGHTS...

WELL, IT'S SHOCKING TO SAY THESE WORDS OUT LOUD, BUT WE MAY HAVE SEEN THE EXTINCTION OF AN ENTIRE SPECIES.
AND AS OF RIGHT NOW WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW THIS HAPPENED.
AND I DON'T THINK THAT ANY PERSON OF SCIENCE CAN REST UNTIL WE FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND WHO OR WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE.
BECAUSE NOT ONLY HAS THE MUTANT POPULATION BEEN DEVASTATED...
...AND MY HEART BREAKS FOR ALL MY MUTANT BROTHERS AND SISTERS...
...BUT THINK OF HOW THIS EFFECTS OUR ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM!
THE NATURAL ORDER OF OUR EVOLUTION AS A SPECIES HAS BEEN ALTERED.
'MORNING.
'MORNING.
THE ENTIRE WAY OUR PLANET REACTS TO OUR EXISTENCE HAS NOW CHANGED.
OUR PLANET MAY NOT BE READY TO HANDLE THE SUDDEN CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN PUT UPON US AND IT.
AND THINK ABOUT THIS...

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MUTANTS? HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MUTANTS?
AND OF ALL THOSE MUTANTS, HOW MANY ACTUALLY CONTROLLED ENERGY?
OR ENTIRE ENERGY FIELDS? OR PRODUCED ENERGY SOURCES?
OR WIELDED ANY NUMBER OF ELEMENTS THAT AFFECTED OUR ATMOSPHERE OR THE MAGNETIC FIELDS THAT HOLD OUR PLANET'S WEATHER SYSTEMS IN PLACE?
AND THIS IS JUST OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD.
AND ALL THIS ENERGY... THE ENERGY OF THOUSANDS OF MUTANTS...
IT DIDN'T ALL JUST DISAPPEAR.
I'M ASKING--
--WHERE DID IT GO?

IT'S SIR ISAAC NEWTON'S THIRD LAW OF PHYSICS... EVERYONE KNOWS IT:
"FOR EVERY ACTION, THERE IS AN EQUAL AND OPPOSITE REACTION."

SO, I'M ASKING? WHAT WILL BE THE REACTION?
THE END

SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #1

The New Avengers and the Astonishing X-Men met to discuss the fate of Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch--the daughter of the powerful mutant terrorist Magneto. After losing control of her reality-altering powers and suffering a total nervous breakdown, Wanda unleashed chaos upon the Avengers, killing and injuring many of their number. Magneto intervened and took his daughter to the devastated island-nation of Genosha, where Charles Xavier—Professor X, the founder of the X-Men—was to help her recover. Xavier failed, and now it is up to Wanda's friends and teammates to decide whether she will live or die. But Magneto, Wanda, and her brother Pietro disappear...

Then the world burns to white. Reality as we knew it is gone...

...to be replaced by a society in which humans are the oppressed minority and mutants run the culture, ruling over all existing countries, religions, and politics. A kingdom united under the House of M.

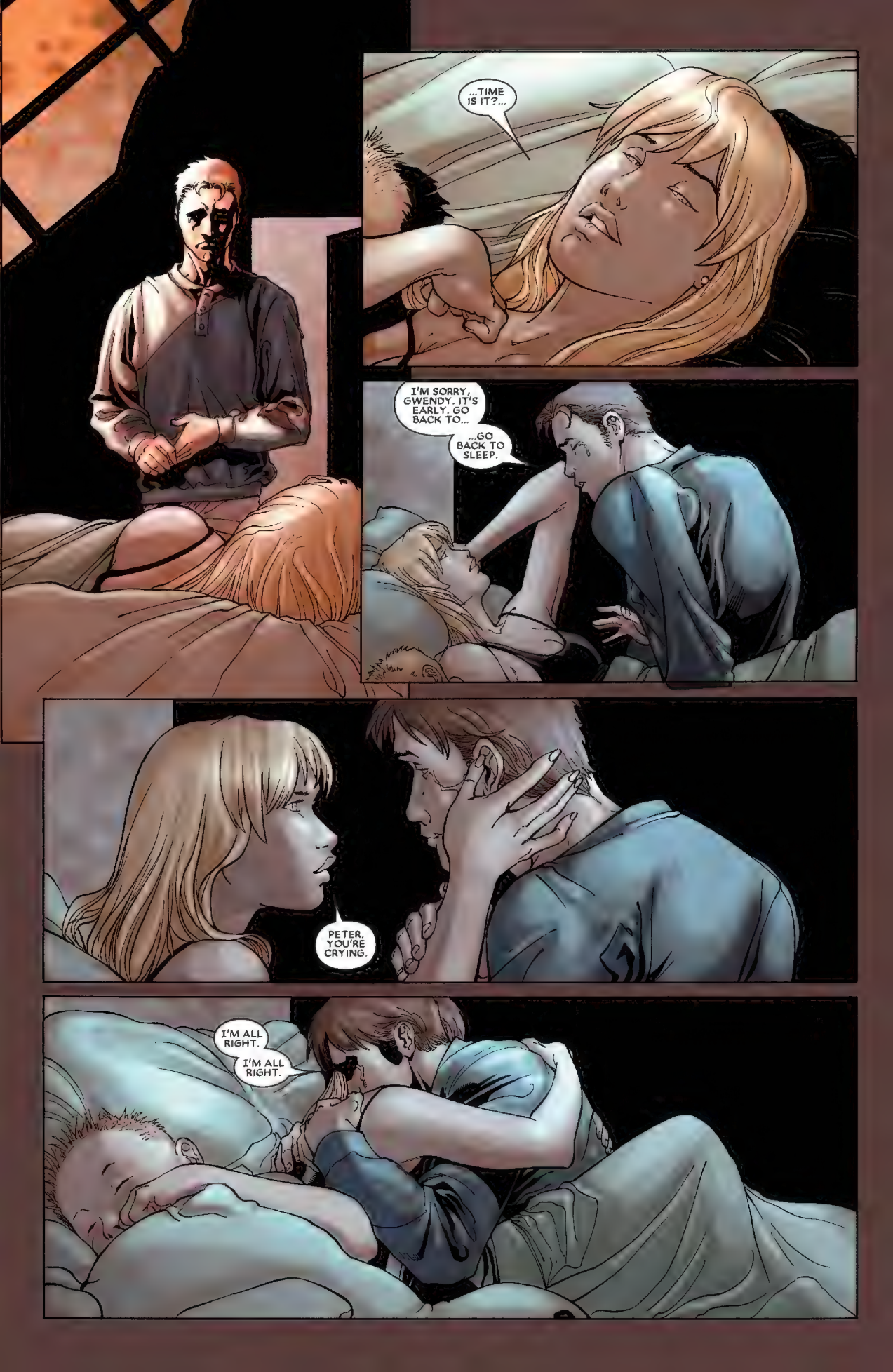
HOUSE OF M

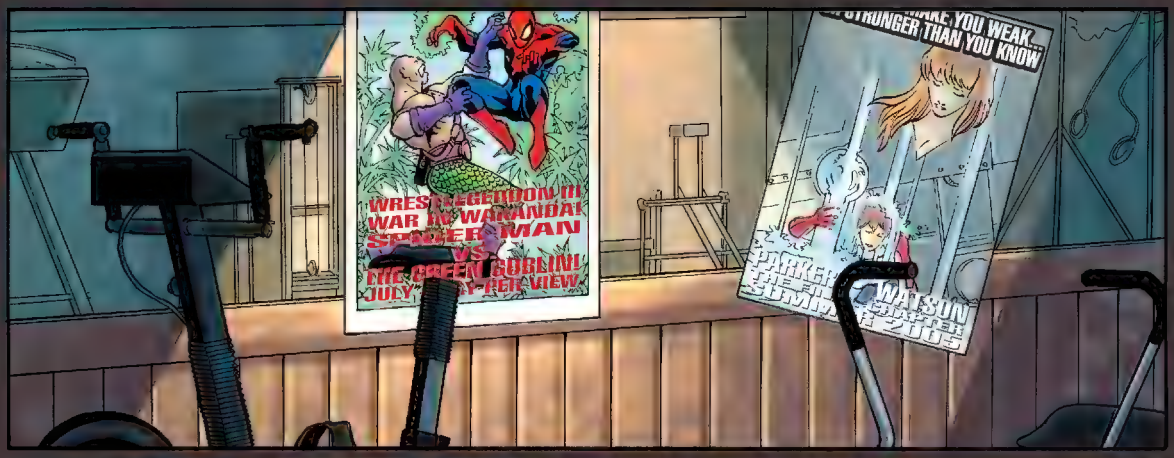
Mutants rule the world. Homo sapiens, few in number, cling to the margins, warming themselves on the last faint flickers of life before extinction.

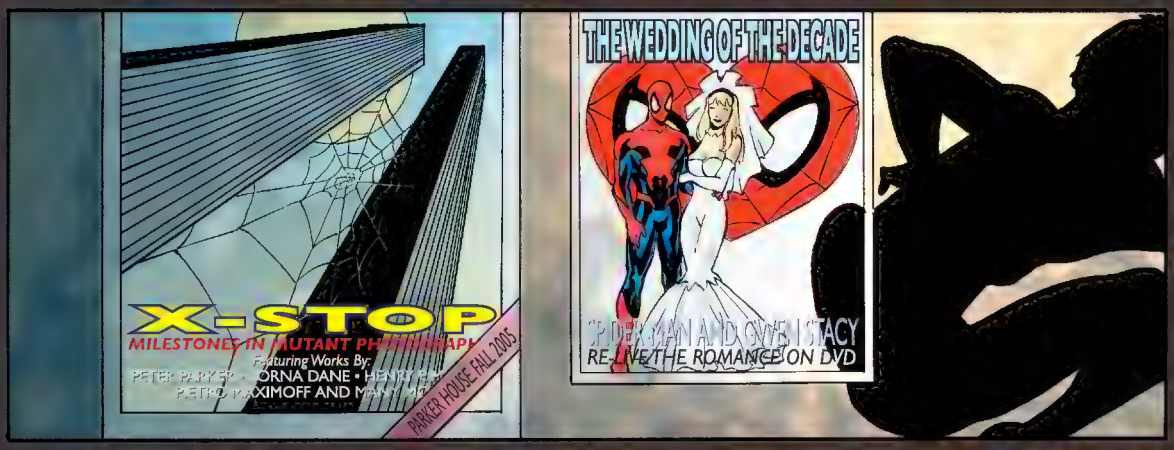
The new masters won by changing the past. Those who would fight to restore the human order have been given impossible new lives, impossible new histories to keep them occupied.

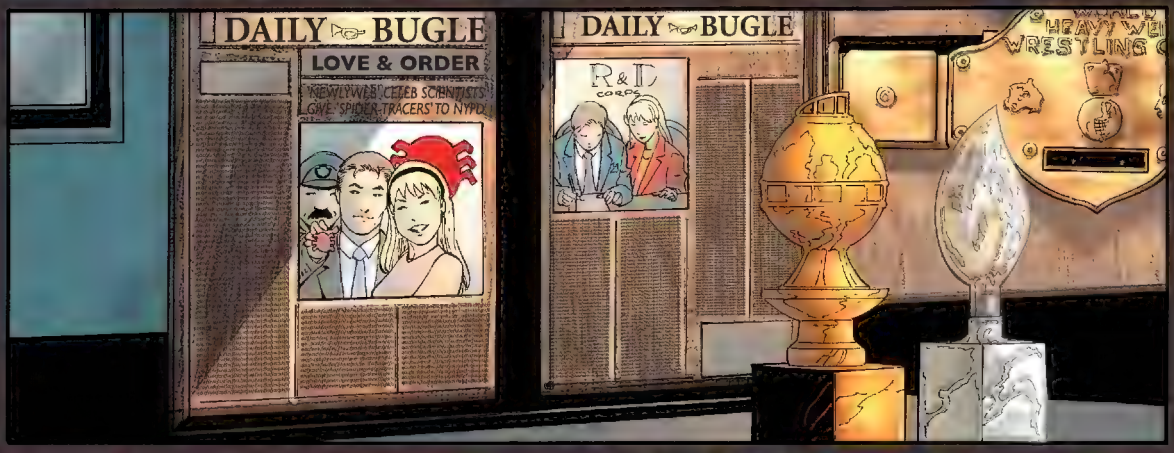
In the master bedroom of his Connecticut estate, (the rich and famous) Peter Parker studies his sleeping wife, (the not-dead) Gwen Stacy, and their child, Richie. Rationally, he believes there is nothing strange or special about their presence in this scene...

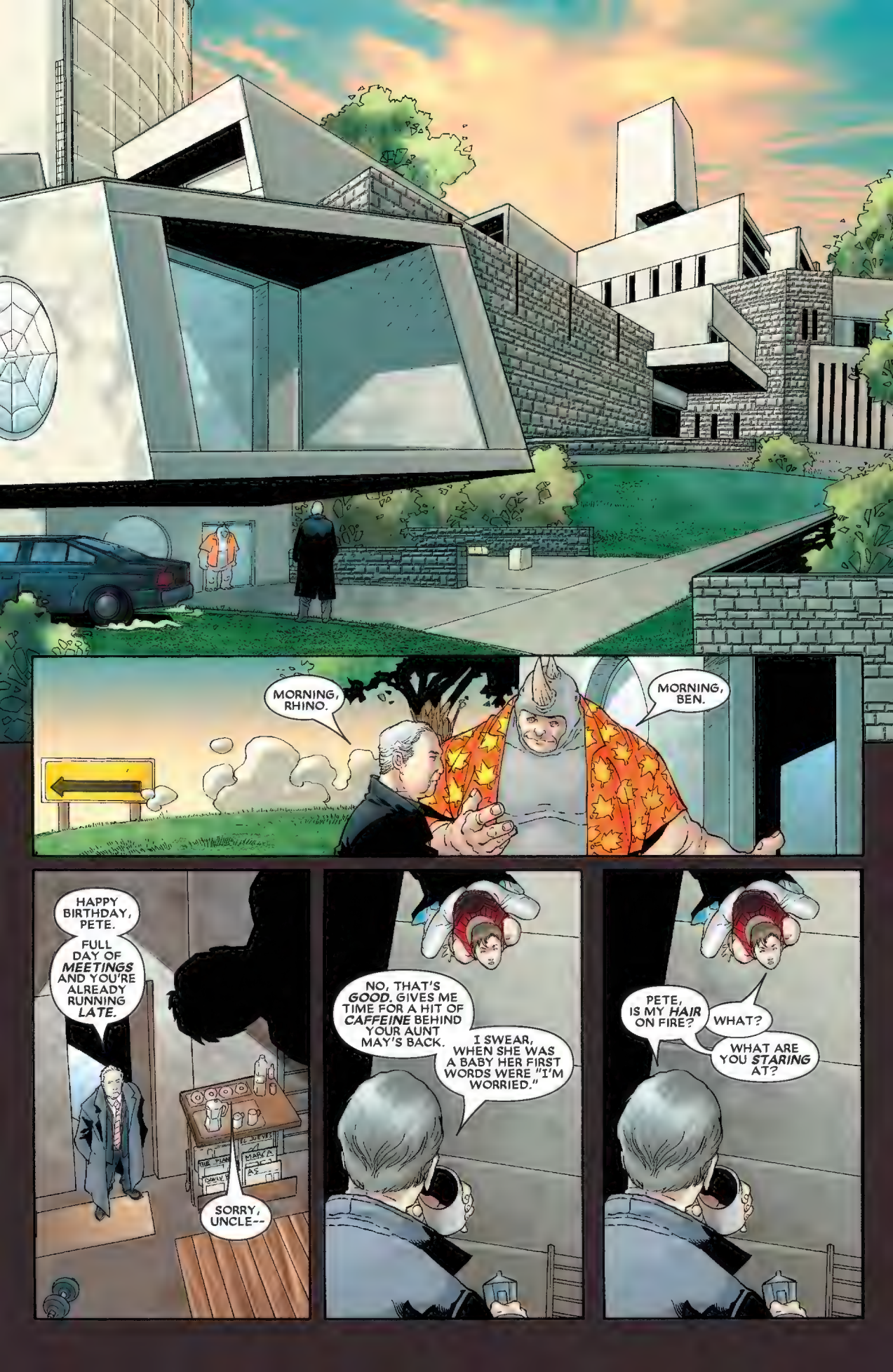
...but his heart feels relief he can't explain.


...TIME IS IT?...
I'M SORRY, GWENDY. IT'S EARLY. GO BACK TO...
...GO BACK TO SLEEP.
PETER. YOU'RE CRYING.
I'M ALL RIGHT.
I'M ALL RIGHT.


WRESTLEGEDDON III
WAR IN WAKANDA!
SPIDER-MAN
VS
THE GREEN GOBLIN!
JULY
PAY-PER-VIEW
STRONGER THAN YOU KNOW
WATSON

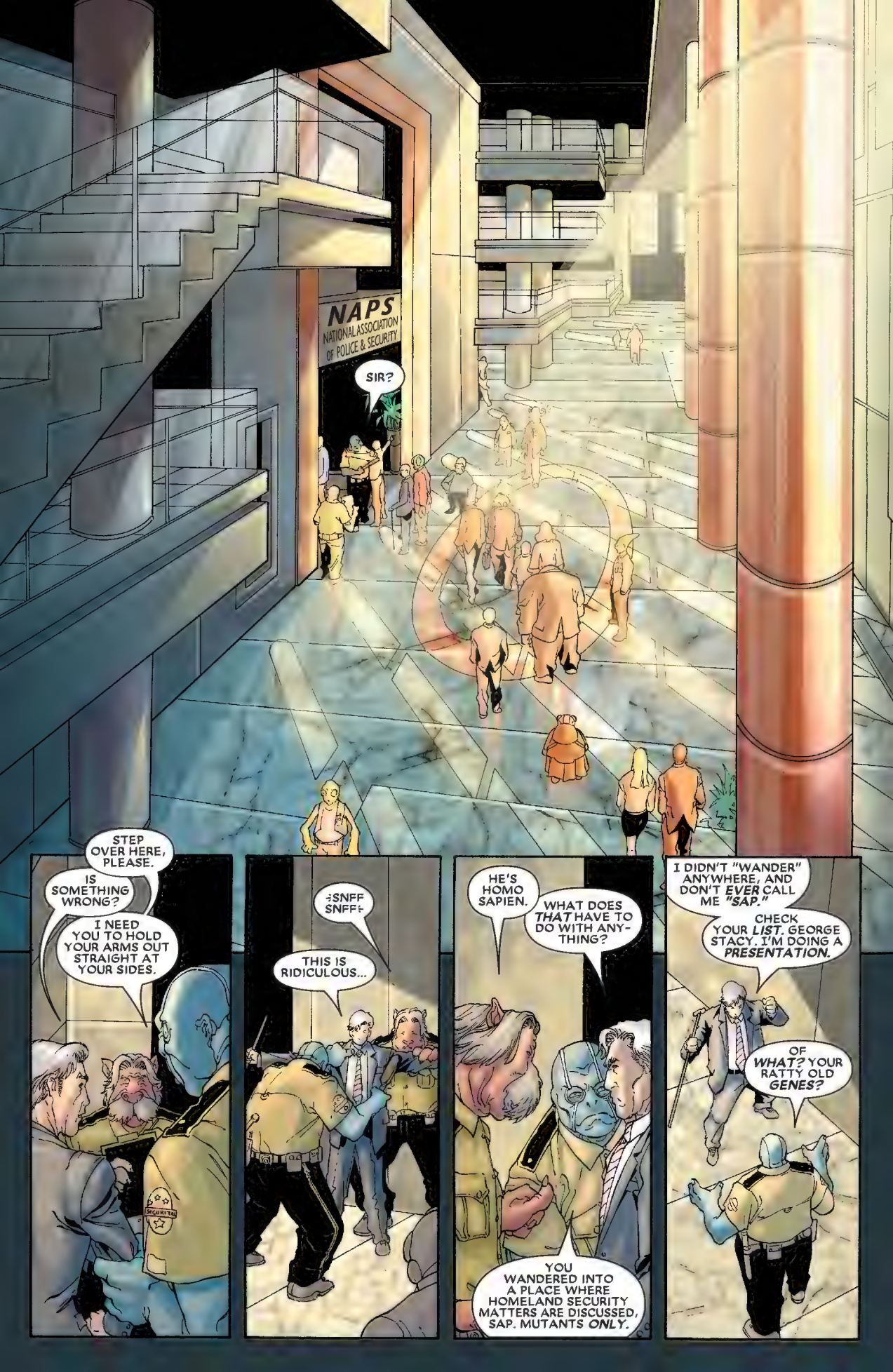

X-STOP
MILESTONES IN MUTANT PH
Featuring Works By:
PETER PARKER • ORNA DANE • HENRY
PETRO MAXIMOFF AND MANY
PARKER HOUSE, FALL 2005
THE WEDDING OF THE DECADE
RE-LIVE THE ROMANCE ON DVD


DAILY BUGLE
LOVE & ORDER
NEWLYWED CELEB SCIENTISTS
GIVE 'SPIDER-TRACERS' TO NYPD!
DAILY BUGLE
R&D
HEAVY WE
WRESTLING


MORNING, RHINO.
MORNING, BEN.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PETE.
FULL DAY OF *MEETINGS* AND YOU'RE ALREADY RUNNING *LATE*.
SORRY, UNCLE--
NO, THAT'S *GOOD*. GIVES ME TIME FOR A HIT OF *CAFFEINE* BEHIND YOUR AUNT MAY'S BACK.
I SWEAR, WHEN SHE WAS A BABY HER FIRST WORDS WERE "I'M WORRIED."
PETE, IS MY *HAIR* ON FIRE?
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU *STARING* AT?

NOTHING, UNCLE BEN. I MEAN, I WAS JUST *THINKING*. NOT *STARING*.
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE. I WON'T BE LONG. I NEED TO *SHAVE*.
WALL STRE
DAILY BUGLE
TAKE YOUR TIME. IT'S A FULL POT.
HEY, HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THIS STUFF YET? YOUR *PUBLIC RELATIONS* GUY'S BEEN DOING A MIGHTY GOOD *JOB*.
NEW YORK GLOBE
I WISH YOU'D *TREAT* HIM BETTER. I KNOW HE WAS *MISERABLE* TO YOU WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER.
AND ON TOP OF *HIS* GRIEF, YOU HAD TO DEAL WITH HIGH SCHOOL, ADOLESCENCE, FINDING OUT YOU'RE A *MUTANT*...
MUTANT FAMILY
GWEN
WIFE! MOM
DAUGHTER
SCIENTIST
MOGUL!
DONUT
NEW YORK GLOBE
ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU HATE A MAN FOR *LIFE*. CAN'T SAY I'M CRAZY ABOUT HIM *MYSELF*.
BUT IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THAT, ONCE YOU MADE IT BIG, YOU ONLY *HIRED* HIM FOR *PAY-BACK*.
STACY TO UNVEIL TOOL FOR POLICE
SO HOW MUCH MORE DOES HE HAVE TO *ENDURE* BEFORE YOU FIGURE HE'S *PAID UP*?
NEW YORK GLOBE

DIDN'T HEAR A WORD.
WHERE WE HEADED FIRST?
FRENCHY'S HOUSE OF TOUPEES.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU MEANT TO SHAVE YOUR HEAD.
HEY, COME ON. I DON'T LOOK THAT BAD.
WHY DO YOU KIDS ALL WANT TO BE BALD? MY GENERATION DID EVERYTHING WE COULD TO PUT IT OFF.
WELL, SPEAKING OF YOUR GENERATION, I WAS GOING TO LEAVE ENOUGH ON THE SIDE FOR A COMB-OVER...
SERIOUSLY. KIND OF A DRASTIC CHANGE, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, IT IS. AND THAT'S HOW I WOKE UP FEELING. DRASTIC. LIKE...
LIKE TODAY IS A BEGINNING SOMEHOW. AND I DON'T KNOW WHY.


NAPS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE & SECURITY
SIR?
STEP OVER HERE, PLEASE.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I NEED YOU TO HOLD YOUR ARMS OUT STRAIGHT AT YOUR SIDES.
SECURITY
÷SNFF SNFF÷
THIS IS RIDICULOUS...
HE'S HOMO SAPIEN.
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANY-THING?
YOU WANDERED INTO A PLACE WHERE HOMELAND SECURITY MATTERS ARE DISCUSSED, SAP. MUTANTS ONLY.
I DIDN'T "WANDER" ANYWHERE, AND DON'T EVER CALL ME "SAP."
CHECK YOUR LIST, GEORGE STACY. I'M DOING A PRESENTATION.
OF WHAT? YOUR RATTY OLD GENES?

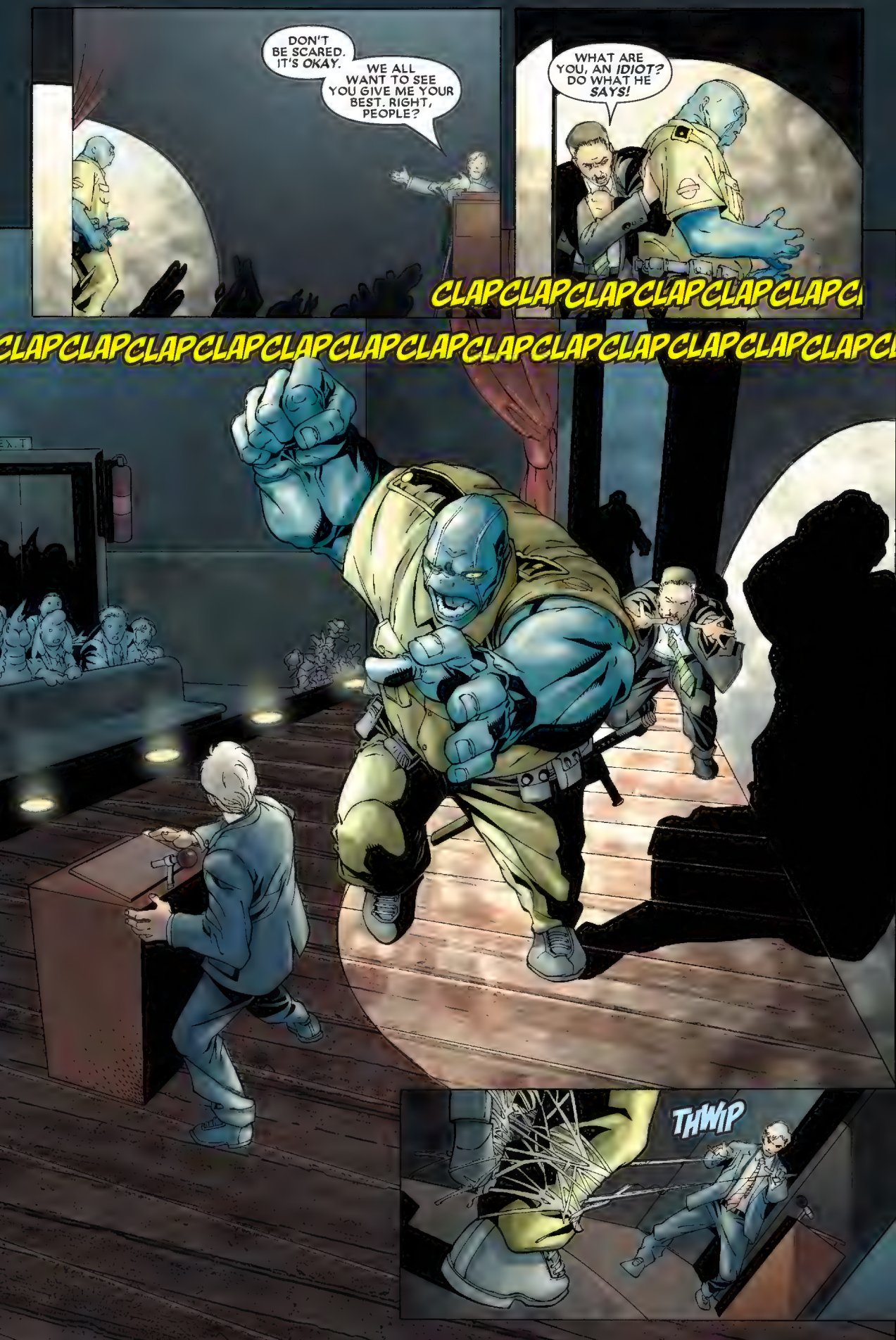
EXCUSE ME--
WILL YOU PREFER THE RELATIVE SECURITY OF A SHELTER? OR THE FREEDOM OF THE STREET?
WHO ARE YOU?
J.
JONAH.
JAMESON. SALARIED PUBLICIST TO ONE OF FORBES MAGAZINE'S "TEN RICHEST MUTANTS OF 2005--"
--PETER PARKER, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! TRIVIA: DID YOU KNOW HE'S CAPTAIN STACY'S SON-IN-LAW?
WHAT?
CAPTAIN STACY, PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGY. GO RIGHT ON IN, SIR.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SKRILL, SIR.
NOW, WHEN MR. PARKER HAS YOU BANNED FROM THE BULLYING MORON INDUSTRY, WILL YOU BE LIVING IN A SHELTER OR ON THE STREET?
SECURITAS
WELL, SKRILL, IF YOU DON'T WANT THIS TO GO ANY FARTHER, GET SOMEONE TO RELIEVE YOU AND MEET ME INSIDE.
YES, SIR.
YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES.
RACIST.

THANK YOU FOR COMING.
YOU'RE ALL VERY BUSY SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS--
--SO YOUR PRESENCE AT THIS CONFERENCE INDICATES REAL COMMITMENT TO OUR NATION'S SAFETY. MY SON IN LAW, PETER PARKER--

CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPC
APCLAPCLAPCLAPCLA
CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPC
LAPCLAPCLAPCLAPC

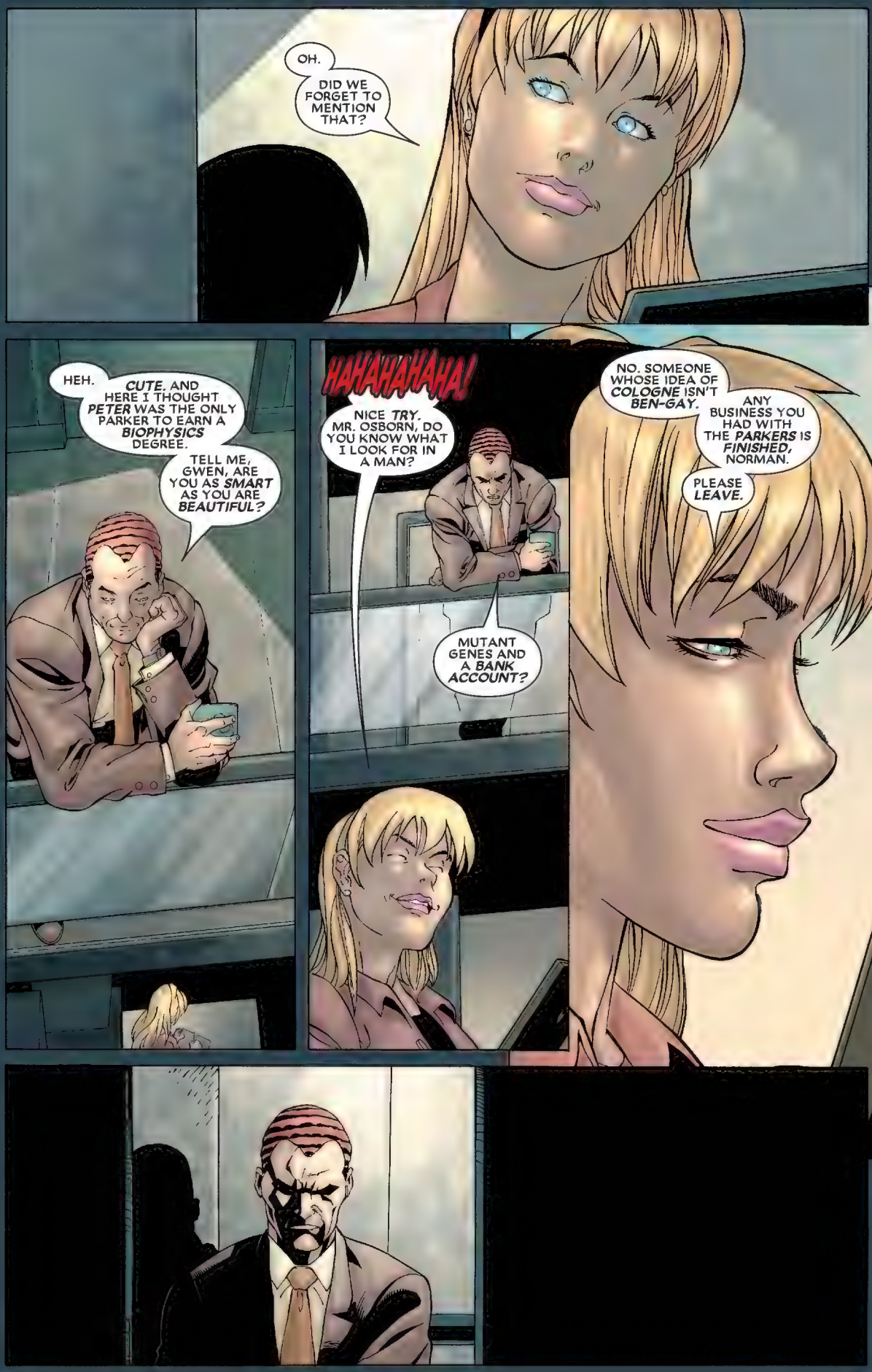
THANKS. I LIKE HIM, TOO.
PETE AND MY DAUGHTER SPENT A WEEK IN THEIR LAB A WHILE BACK, AND THEY CAME OUT WITH THE GREATEST NON-LETHAL WEAPON--*AND* BEST RESTRAINING DEVICE-- I EVER SAW.
AND I WAS NYPD FOR MANY YEARS, SO I'VE SEEN A *LOT*. ANYWAY, I'LL JUST SHUT UP AND SHOW YOU.

SKRILL.
ATTACK ME.
SECURITAS


DON'T BE SCARED. IT'S OKAY.
WE ALL WANT TO SEE YOU GIVE ME YOUR BEST. RIGHT, PEOPLE?
WHAT ARE YOU, AN IDIOT? DO WHAT HE SAYS!
CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPC
CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCL
THWIP

HUNNH
WHOOM
HEH.
NOT BAD FOR AN OLD, RETIRED COP, EH?
APCLAPCLAPCLAPCLA
IMAGINE YOUR MEN AND WOMEN ARMED WITH THESE!
ROOOAAAARRR

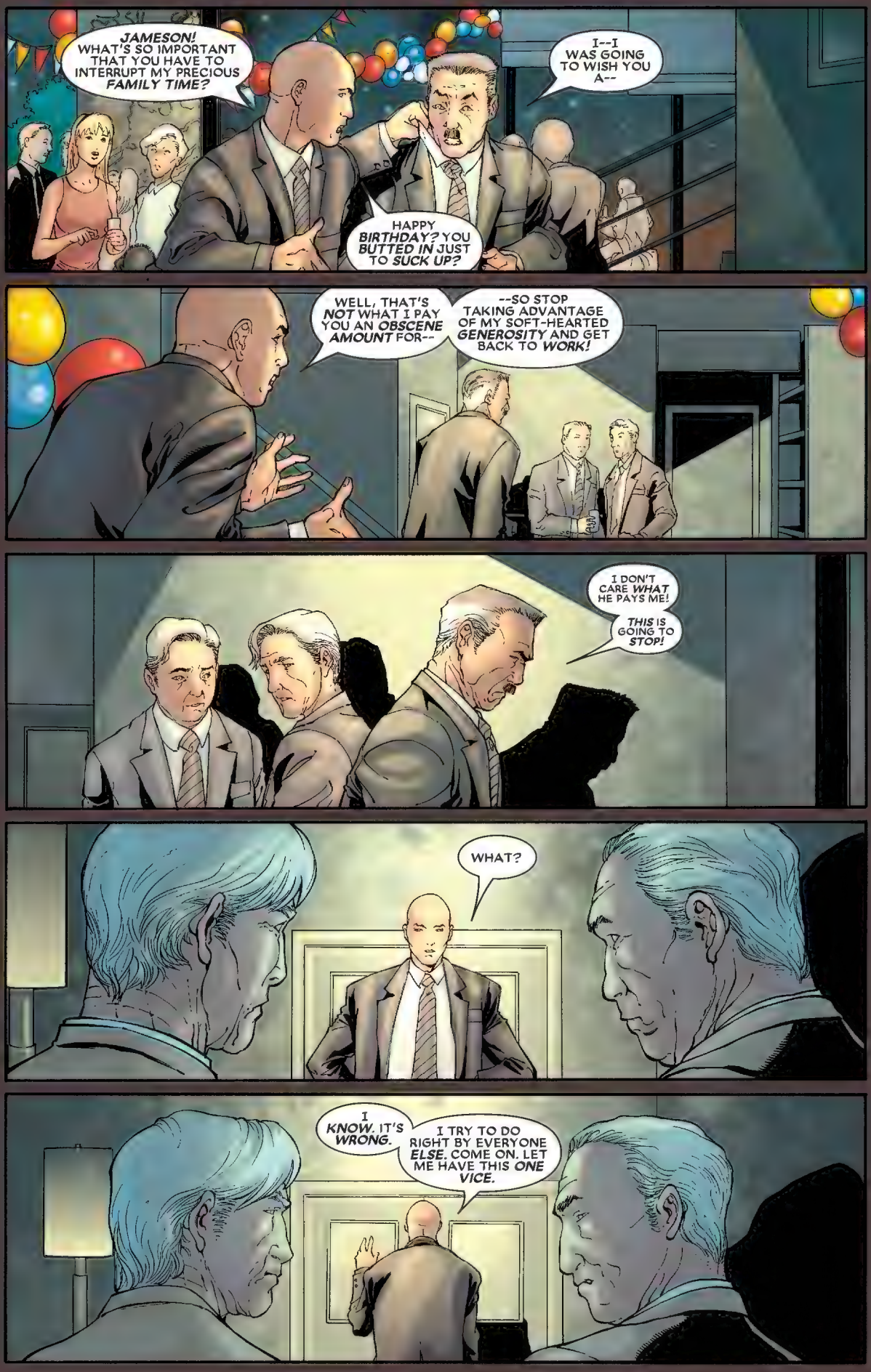
OSBORN
GWEN PARKER!
FANCY RUNNING INTO YOU ON MY PREMISES.
READ THE CONTRACT, MR. OSBORN. AS OF 12:01 A.M., THIS FACILITY AND EVERYTHING IN IT NOW BELONGS TO SPIDER-MAN, INC.
I'M ACTUALLY GLAD YOU'RE HERE. I CAN'T SEEM TO LOCATE SOME OF THE PROTOTYPE WEAPONS LISTED IN YOUR INVENTORY.
WELL, IT TURNS OUT THERE'VE BEEN A FEW ROBBERIES OVER THE YEARS.
MY CRACK STAFF DIDN'T THINK IT WAS WORTH INFORMING ME AT THE TIME. I'LL BE GLAD TO SEE THEM ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINE.
AS LONG AS YOU WOULDN'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK.
FROM YOU, MY DEAR? UNIMAGINABLE.
ANYWAY, ISN'T THERE ENOUGH HERE? OR ARE YOU PARKERS PLANNING TO START A WAR?
STOP A FEW, I HOPE. I'VE BEEN WORKING UP A METHOD TO RENDER CHEMICAL WEAPONS INERT, AND NOW I HAVE YOUR TOYS TO PLAY WITH.
YOU'RE TELLING ME NOW THAT YOU BOUGHT MY COMPANY JUST SO YOU CAN DESTROY MY WORK?

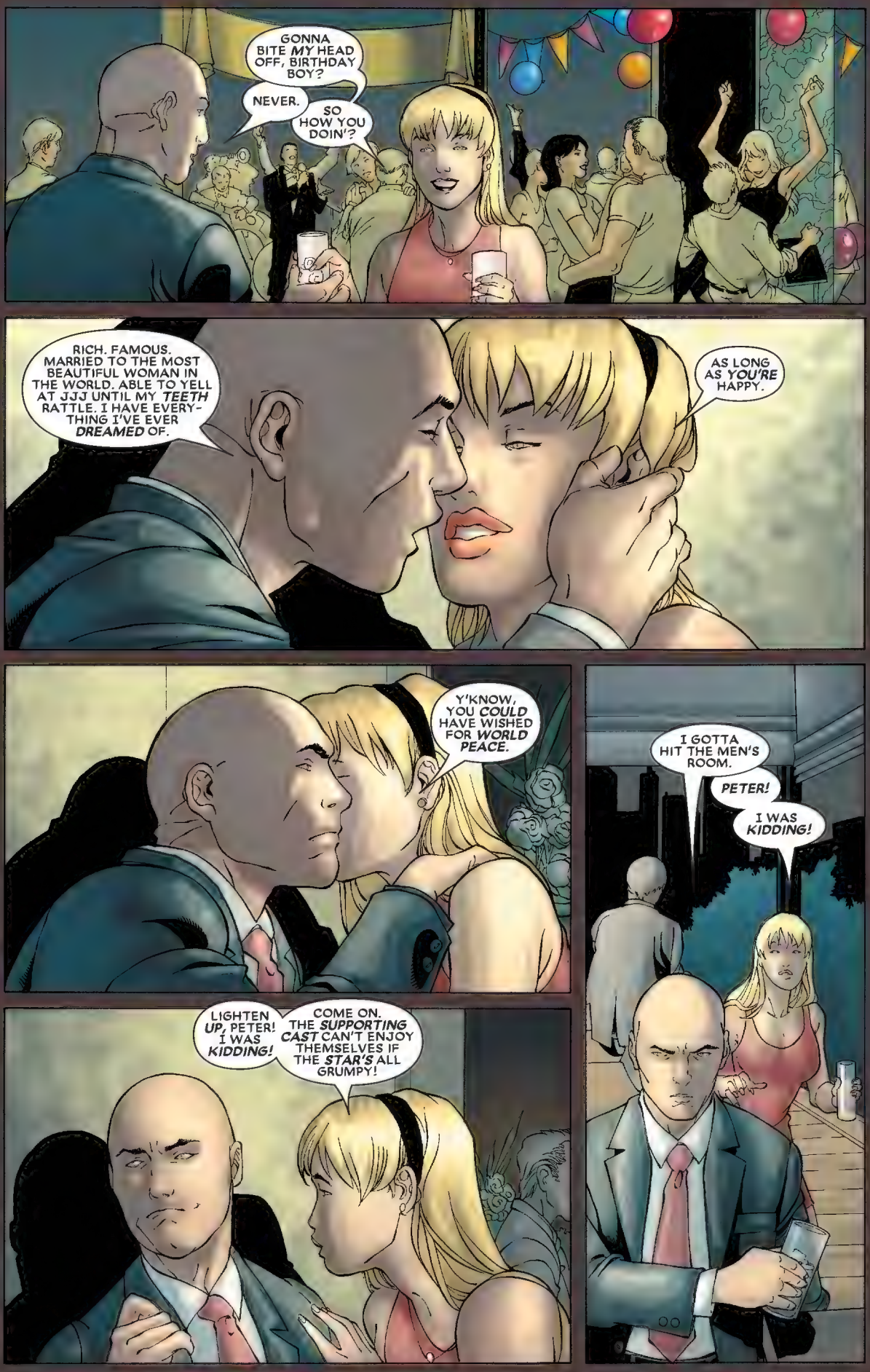

OH.
DID WE FORGET TO MENTION THAT?
HEH.
CUTE. AND HERE I THOUGHT PETER WAS THE ONLY PARKER TO EARN A BIOPHYSICS DEGREE.
TELL ME, GWEN, ARE YOU AS SMART AS YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL?
HAHAHAHAHA!
NICE TRY. MR. OSBORN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT I LOOK FOR IN A MAN?
MUTANT GENES AND A BANK ACCOUNT?
NO. SOMEONE WHOSE IDEA OF COLOGNE ISN'T BEN-GAY.
ANY BUSINESS YOU HAD WITH THE PARKERS IS FINISHED, NORMAN.
PLEASE LEAVE.

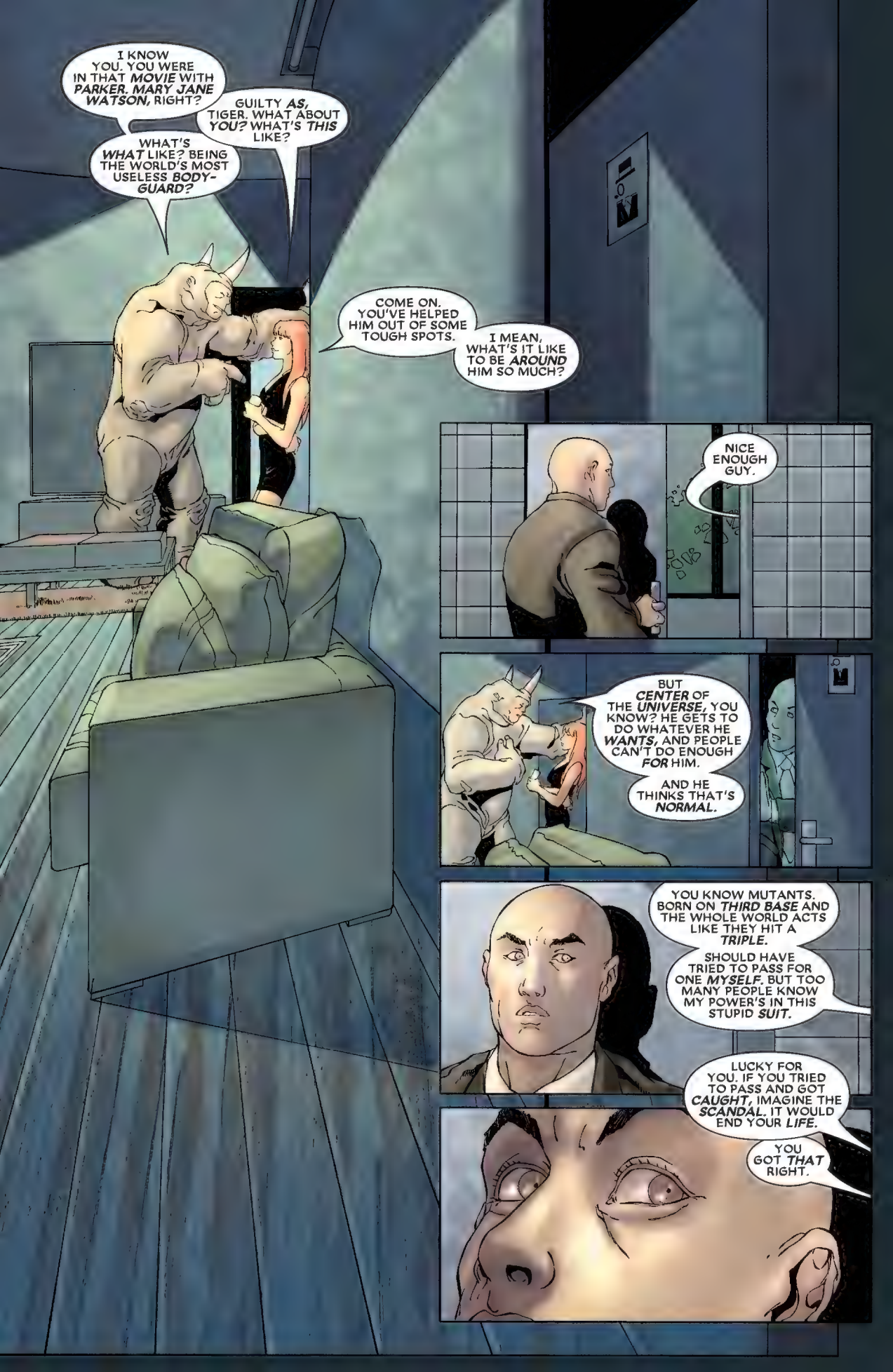
LOOK AT YOU. ALL DRESSED UP LIKE A HANDSOME LITTLE GENTLEMAN FOR YOUR DADDY'S PARTY.
DADDY!
WHAT--?
OH MY STARS!
WHERE IS HIS HAIR?
DAD--
AAAAHH!
EEEEEE!

CRUSHER HOGAN!
YOU ALMOST GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK--!
SORRY, MAY!
MY ARCH-RIVAL AROUND? I BROUGHT HIM HIS BIRTHDAY PRESENT!
CRUSHER, YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS! HE SHAVED HIS HEAD!
AND I HAD TO FIND OUT ABOUT IT ON TV! LOOK!
HAW! SPITTIN' IMAGE OF ME!
ANYWAY, GIVE HIM THIS, WILLYA?
YOU'RE NOT COMING TO THE PARTY?
CAN'T. I GOT A MATCH TONIGHT AT THE MEADOWLANDS.
THEN WHY ARE YOU IN COSTUME SO EARLY?
'CAUSE THE GREEN GOBLIN'S GOT A PRELIMINARY BOUT--
--WITH SPIDER-MAN JR.!
AAAH-HAHAHAHA!

SURPRISE!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY SPIDEY!
AHHH!
YA GOT ME!
I KNEW MY SPIDER-SENSE WAS TINGLING ALL DAY FOR A REASON!
SO WHAT'S WITH THE DOME?
HE SAYS TODAY'S THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF HIS LIFE.
WHERE'S MY BOY?
RICHIE! GIVE DADDY A BIRTHDAY KISS!
NO!!
IT'S THE HAIR. GIVE HIM TIME.
MR. PARKER--

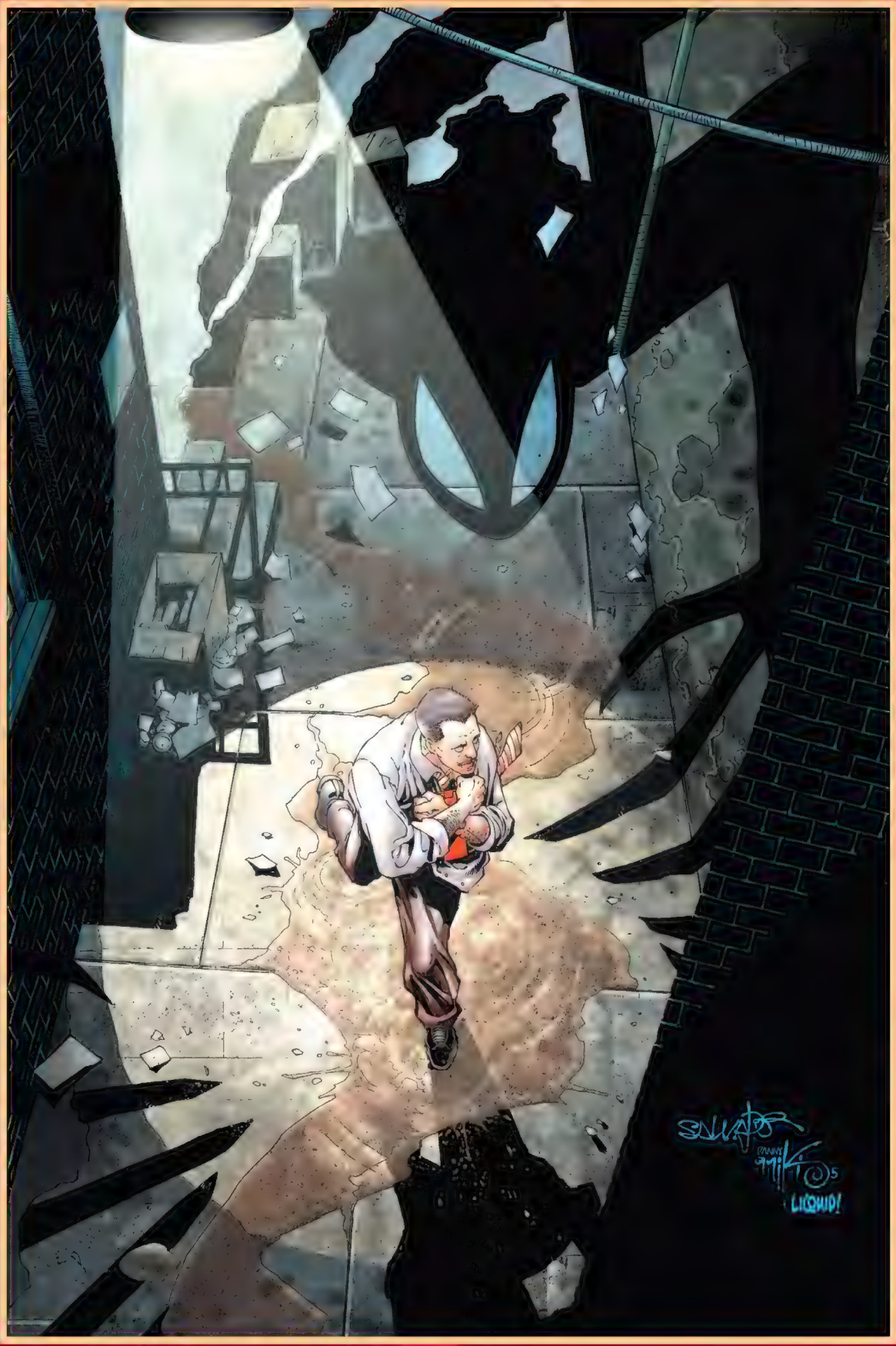

JAMESON! WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE TO INTERRUPT MY PRECIOUS FAMILY TIME?
I--I WAS GOING TO WISH YOU A--
HAPPY BIRTHDAY? YOU BUTTED IN JUST TO SUCK UP?
WELL, THAT'S NOT WHAT I PAY YOU AN OBSCENE AMOUNT FOR--
--SO STOP TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY SOFT-HEARTED GENEROSITY AND GET BACK TO WORK!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HE PAYS ME! THIS IS GOING TO STOP!
WHAT?
I KNOW. IT'S WRONG.
I TRY TO DO RIGHT BY EVERYONE ELSE. COME ON. LET ME HAVE THIS ONE VICE.


GONNA BITE MY HEAD OFF, BIRTHDAY BOY?
NEVER.
SO HOW YOU DOIN'?
RICH. FAMOUS. MARRIED TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD. ABLE TO YELL AT JJJ UNTIL MY TEETH RATTLE. I HAVE EVERYTHING I'VE EVER DREAMED OF.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY.
Y'KNOW, YOU COULD HAVE WISHED FOR WORLD PEACE.
I GOTTA HIT THE MEN'S ROOM.
PETER!
I WAS KIDDING!
LIGHTEN UP, PETER! I WAS KIDDING!
COME ON. THE SUPPORTING CAST CAN'T ENJOY THEMSELVES IF THE STAR'S ALL GRUMPY!

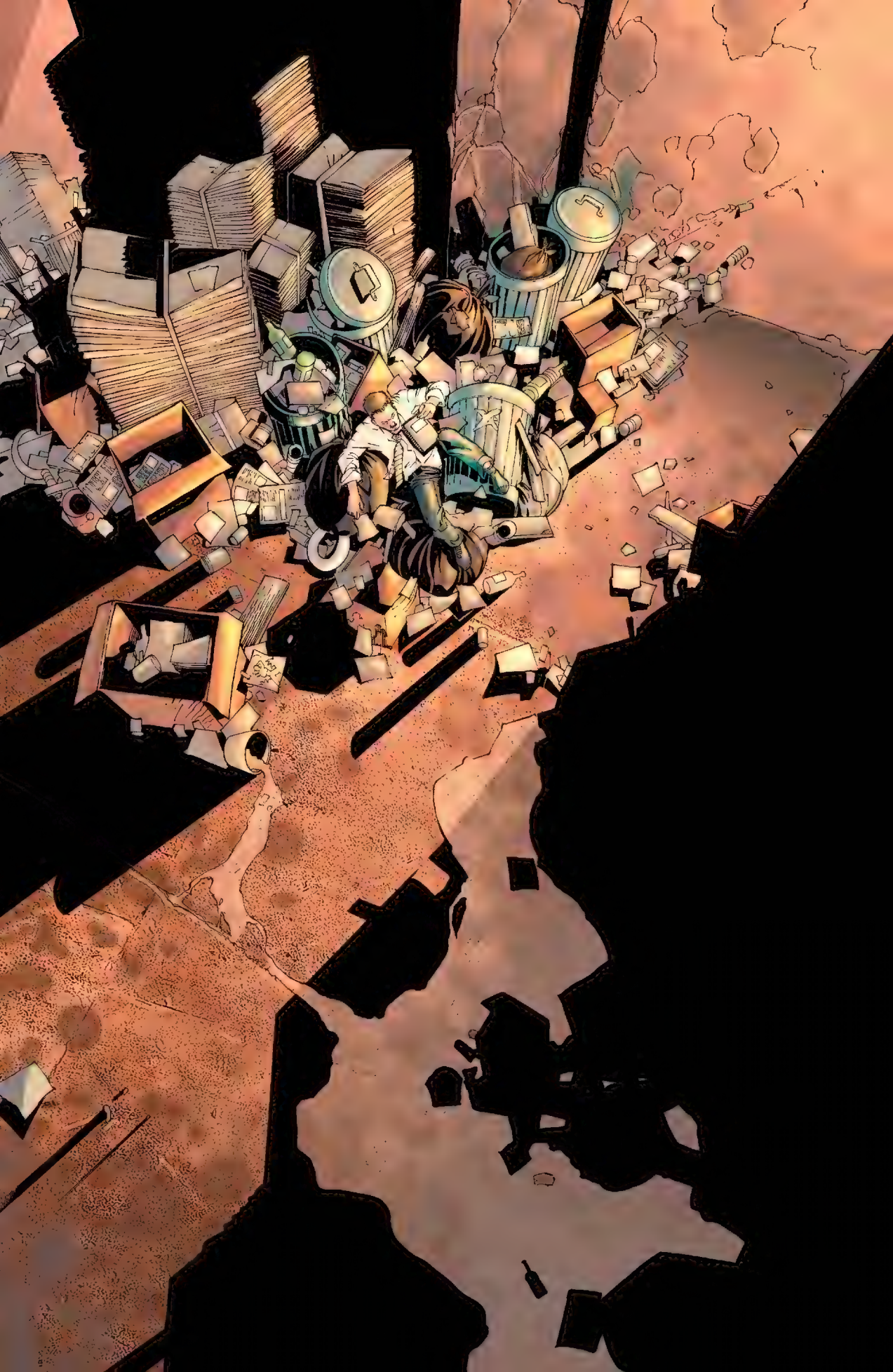

I KNOW YOU. YOU WERE IN THAT *MOVIE* WITH *PARKER. MARY JANE WATSON,* RIGHT?
GUILTY *AS,* TIGER. WHAT ABOUT *YOU?* WHAT'S *THIS* LIKE?
WHAT'S *WHAT* LIKE? BEING THE WORLD'S MOST USELESS *BODY-GUARD?*
COME ON. YOU'VE HELPED HIM OUT OF SOME TOUGH SPOTS.
I MEAN, WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE *AROUND* HIM SO MUCH?
NICE ENOUGH GUY.
BUT *CENTER* OF THE *UNIVERSE,* YOU KNOW? HE GETS TO DO WHATEVER HE *WANTS,* AND PEOPLE CAN'T DO ENOUGH *FOR* HIM.
AND HE THINKS THAT'S *NORMAL.*
YOU KNOW MUTANTS. BORN ON *THIRD BASE* AND THE WHOLE WORLD ACTS LIKE THEY HIT A *TRIPLE.*
SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO PASS FOR ONE *MYSELF.* BUT TOO MANY PEOPLE KNOW MY POWER'S IN THIS STUPID *SUIT.*
LUCKY FOR YOU. IF YOU TRIED TO PASS AND GOT *CAUGHT,* IMAGINE THE *SCANDAL.* IT WOULD END YOUR *LIFE.*
YOU GOT *THAT* RIGHT.

STUPID PHONY PARKER.
GOT EVERYONE FOOLED WITH HIS STUPID "NICE GUY" ACT.
WELL I'M NOT FOOLED.
AND I'M NOT LYING FOR HIM ANYMORE. I'M GONNA CALL HIM NOW AND--
KLISH!!
AAAHHH!
HAHAHAHAHAHA!
HOGAN--?

NOT "HOGAN."
I'M THE GREEN GOBLIN.
AND YOU'RE THE PAWN WHO'S GOING TO HELP ME DESTROY SPIDER-MAN!
WHEN DO WE START?



SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #2



HUGGHHH
...WHERE IN BLAZES AM I...?
SPUTT
OH.
THE GREEN GOBLIN.

TIED ME TO THAT RIDICULOUS GLIDER...TOSSED ME IN THE DUMP LIKE A BAG OF BAD CHEESE...
PETER PARKER JOURNAL KEEP OUT
...ALL SO HE COULD GIVE ME THIS.
AND IT WAS WORTH IT.
SLEEP.
WE'RE EVEN.
HE TREATED ME LIKE GARBAGE--
"--BUT HE GAVE ME THE GOODS ON PARKER."

NOW, AFTER ALL THE ABUSE THAT WEB-EATER HAS HEAPED ON ME, I GET TO BE THE ONE TO TELL THE WHOLE WORLD--
PHONE...?
WALLET!
TERRIFIC. NO CALLING A CAR...CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A SUBWAY TOKEN...
...BE LUCKY TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE CITY ALIVE...

"Liz Allen's eyes met mine today in study hall. I couldn't breathe. Then I think she saw me use my inhaler and she looked really disgusted.
"I want to die.
"Coach Bronksi yelled at me again about not showering after gym. He doesn't understand what it feels like to have Flash and the others laugh at how skinny I am and how I still don't have any—"
PETER PARKER JOURNAL KEEP OUT
WORTH IT!

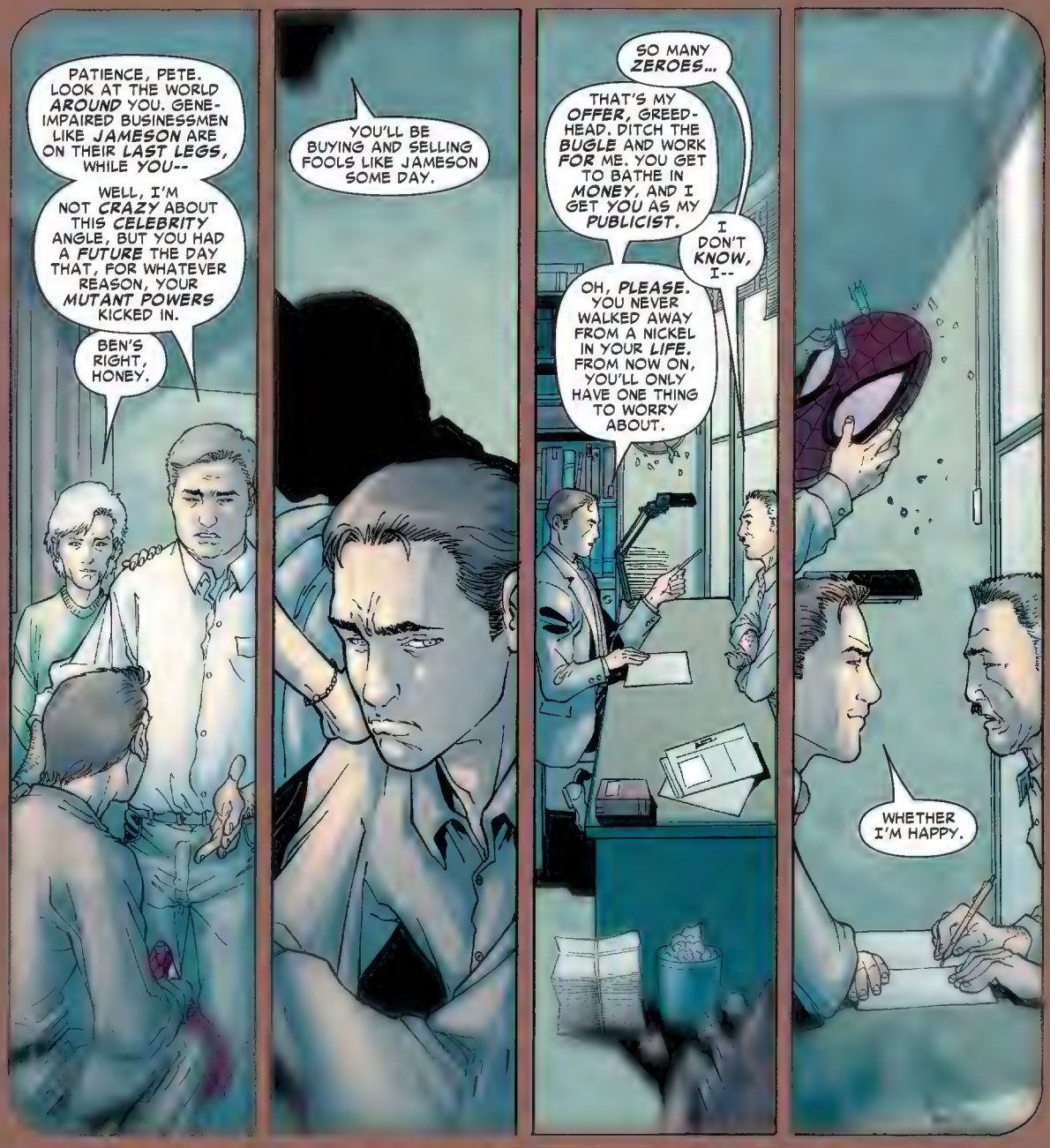
ONE STEP CLOSER, SPIDER-MAN--
--AND GWEN STACY DIES!

PETER, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ME--KNOW THAT I LOVE Y--
OH, SPARE ME!
AIEEE!
NO!!
GWEN!

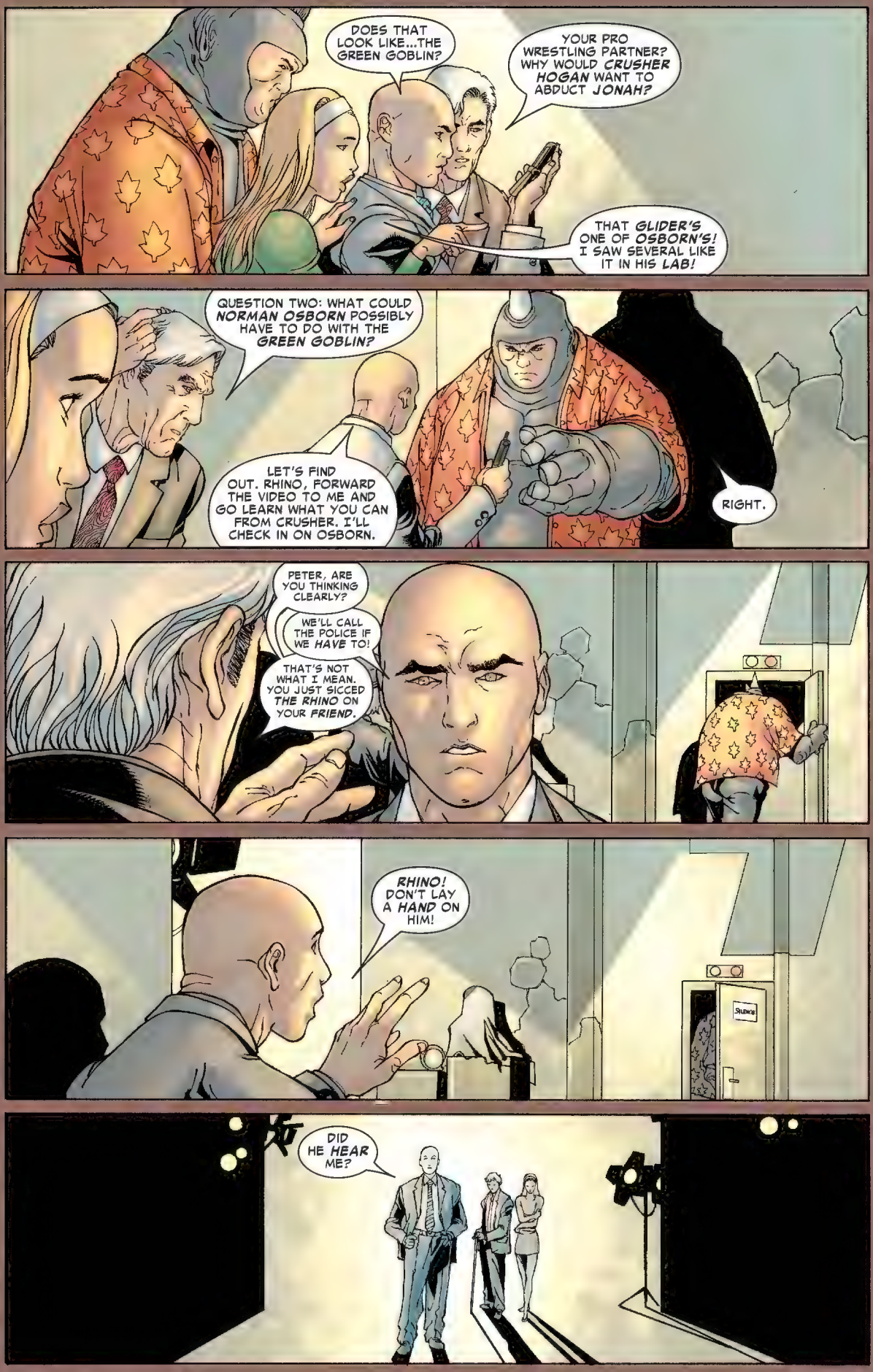
MUTANTS IN THE MORNING
WOW.
SOME CLIP. WE'RE HERE WITH PETER PARKER AND TWO-TIME OSCAR WINNER MARY JANE WATSON, STARS OF THE UPCOMING BLOCKBUSTER DOCUDRAMA, SPIDER-MAN: THE FINAL CHAPTER. SO, MARY JANE...
...DOES PETER SAVE YOU?
I'M NOT TELLING.
I WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A HERO IF I DIDN'T. THEN AGAIN...MAYBE I'M NOT EVERYTHING YOU THINK I AM.
MARY JANE, WHAT'S IT LIKE PLAYING THE PART OF YOUR CO-STAR'S REAL-LIFE WIFE? DID YOU PUT MUCH...RESEARCH INTO THE ROLE?
OH, YOU DIRTY, DIRTY MAN. YOU'LL MAKE ME BLUSH. NO, NO...MRS. STACY-PARKER WAS ON THE SET WHENEVER SHE COULD... MAKE THE TIME.
I'D THINK THAT WOULD MAKE THIS EVEN MORE AWKWARD. WITH HER RIGHT THERE, WASN'T IT A CHALLENGE PORTRAYING THE WIFE OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS SPIDER-MAN?
NOT AT ALL, KEN. IN FACT, IT FEELS SO TOTALLY LIKE THE ROLE I WAS BORN TO PLAY.
WELL, YOU TWO REALLY DO HAVE AMAZING CHEMISTRY. THANKS FOR DROPPING BY.
THE FINAL CHAPTER OPENS FRIDAY. TOMORROW ON MUTANTS: A FULL HOUR WITH MACTAGGART-PRIZE-WINNING GENETICIST, DR. HANK MCCOY.

NICE JOB, BOSS. AS YOUR BODYGUARD, SHOULD I BE READY TO BLOCK THE MRS. OR HER DAD?
HAR-DE-HAR.
GWEN!
HEY, YOU GUYS KNOW MJ. SHE THRIVES ON BEING OUTRAGEOUS.
WHY SO DEFENSIVE? FEELING GUILTY ABOUT SOMETHING?
I ALWAYS FEEL GUILTY.
RELAX, PETER...
...I WAS A COP FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS. IF YOU WERE KEEPING ANY SECRETS FROM US...
...I'D KNOW.
ARE YOU HEARING HOW THEY TALK TO HIM? APPALLING.
IF PARKER WEREN'T A MUTANT, THAT WHOLE FAMILY WOULD BE LUCKY TO BE LIVING IN A TRAILER.
SAPIENS ARE SO UNGRATEFUL.
ALL RIGHT, UPLOAD THE VIDEO. I'LL TELL HIM.

BOSS? JAMESON DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR WORK THIS MORNING.
FINALLY, SOME GOOD NEWS.
I DON'T THINK SO. LOOK.
SECURITY VIDEO FROM THE HOTEL LAST NIGHT.
JAMESON...
DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-HUSTLER
PUBLISHER OFFERS
SPIDER-MAN
I CAN'T STAND IT, UNCLE BEN! I'M ONLY OUT TO MAKE SOMETHING OF MYSELF, AND THAT OLD BUZZARD WHIPS THE WHOLE CITY UP AGAINST ME!


PATIENCE, PETE. LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND YOU. GENE-IMPAIRED BUSINESSMEN LIKE JAMESON ARE ON THEIR LAST LEGS, WHILE YOU--
WELL, I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT THIS CELEBRITY ANGLE, BUT YOU HAD A FUTURE THE DAY THAT, FOR WHATEVER REASON, YOUR MUTANT POWERS KICKED IN.
BEN'S RIGHT, HONEY.
YOU'LL BE BUYING AND SELLING FOOLS LIKE JAMESON SOME DAY.
SO MANY ZEROES...
THAT'S MY OFFER, GREED-HEAD. DITCH THE BUGLE AND WORK FOR ME. YOU GET TO BATHE IN MONEY, AND I GET YOU AS MY PUBLICIST.
I DON'T KNOW, I--
OH, PLEASE. YOU NEVER WALKED AWAY FROM A NICKEL IN YOUR LIFE. FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE ONE THING TO WORRY ABOUT.
WHETHER I'M HAPPY.

I CAN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO JONAH. I... I HAVEN'T BEEN GOOD TO HIM.
I'LL CALL THE PRECINCT.
DON'T. PLEASE. LET ME DO THIS.
CHECK OUT THESE PICTURES.


DOES THAT LOOK LIKE...THE GREEN GOBLIN?
YOUR PRO WRESTLING PARTNER? WHY WOULD CRUSHER HOGAN WANT TO ABDUCT JONAH?
THAT GLIDER'S ONE OF OSBORN'S! I SAW SEVERAL LIKE IT IN HIS LAB!
QUESTION TWO: WHAT COULD NORMAN OSBORN POSSIBLY HAVE TO DO WITH THE GREEN GOBLIN?
LET'S FIND OUT. RHINO, FORWARD THE VIDEO TO ME AND GO LEARN WHAT YOU CAN FROM CRUSHER. I'LL CHECK IN ON OSBORN.
RIGHT.
PETER, ARE YOU THINKING CLEARLY?
WE'LL CALL THE POLICE IF WE HAVE TO!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. YOU JUST SICCED THE RHINO ON YOUR FRIEND.
RHINO! DON'T LAY A HAND ON HIM!
SILENCE
DID HE HEAR ME?

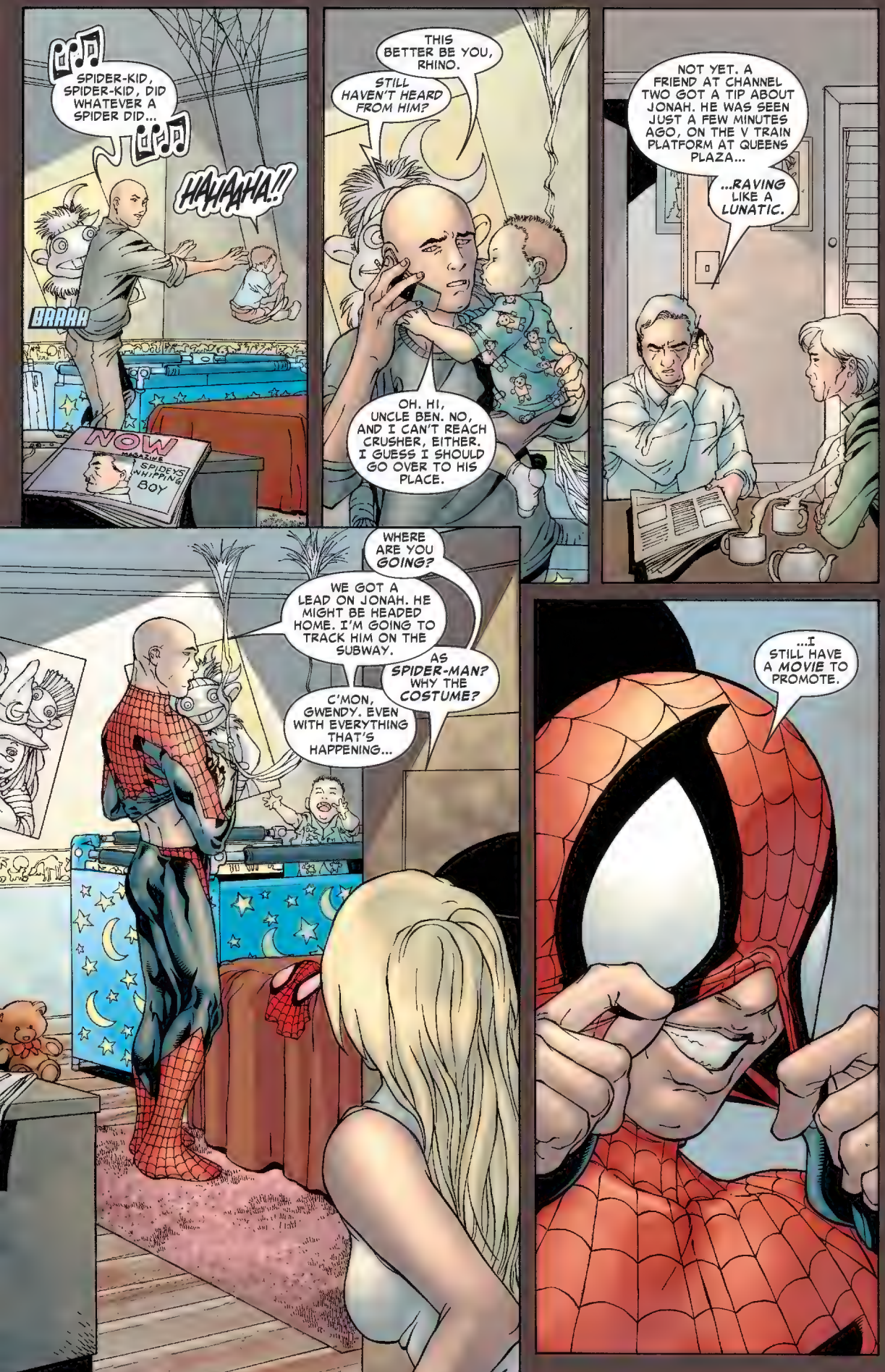
I BET THAT IDIOT BUG-BOY STILL KEEPS A JOURNAL LIKE THIS.
I BET HE LAUGHS AT ME IN IT. OH, YES.
MAKE JONAH LOOK BAD. HIS FAVORITE THING TO DO.
WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME A CLOSET?
THIS IS YOUR OFFICE.
DON'T WORRY, YOU WON'T BE COOPED UP IN HERE TOO OFTEN. MOSTLY, I'LL BE HUMILIATING YOU IN PUBLIC.
JAMESON, YOU ARE THE WORLD'S! WORST! PUBLICIST!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ACTUALLY LETTING ME SCREAM AT YOU ON LIVE TELEVISION! WHAT KIND OF PUBLICITY IS THAT?
NOT NEARLY AS BAD AS THIS, INSECT!
HEY!
MOE
KEEP MOVIN'! NO CRAZY HOMELESS GUYS ALLOWED HERE!
HOMELESS?

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I LIVE IN TRUMP TOWER.
IN FACT, IF YOU'LL ARRANGE A RIDE INTO MANHATTAN, I'LL PAY YOU WHEN WE GET THERE! FIVE DOLLARS! TEN! WHATEVER YOU WANT!
MY COPTER'S IN THE SHOP, MR. TRUMP! NOW, KEEP MOVIN'!
HAMBURGER DE-LUXE 6.50
CAN SODA 1.50
WATER 3.00
THEN LET ME MAKE A CALL! TEN DOLLARS JUST TO USE YOUR CHEAP, TINNY, GERM-RIDDEN PHONE! TEN DOLLARS! FOR PRACTICALLY NOTHING!
AAAH, GO TAKE YOUR MEDS.
WATER, THEN! IF I CAN JUST HAVE A DRINK OF WATER! I'VE BEEN OUT IN THE SUN FOR HOURS!
WHERE'D YOU STEAL THOSE CUFF LINKS, HOMELESS?
I DIDN'T! THEY'RE MINE! NOW, PLEASE--
NICE. THOSE REAL RUBIES?
OH.
HERE. ROB ME. PREY UPON MY WELL-KNOWN GENEROSITY. EVERYONE ELSE DOES! I DON'T CARE ANY-MORE!
JUST GET BEHIND YOUR FILTHY WHEEL AND DRIVE ME TO MY HOME THIS! VERY! MINUTE!
RIDES COST THREE CUFFLINKS.
TWO GET YOU WATER.

I'M ASKING YOU AGAIN, HOGAN, IS THAT YOUR SUIT?
+UKKK+
THE GOBLIN IN THAT VIDEO'S FAKE. YOU CAN TELL BY LOOKING.
WELL, HOW MANY GOBLINS ARE THERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE IT.
PETE DIDN'T SEND YOU TO THREATEN ME. I'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT. HE TRUSTS ME.
I'M LOSING MY PATIENCE!
UH-OH.

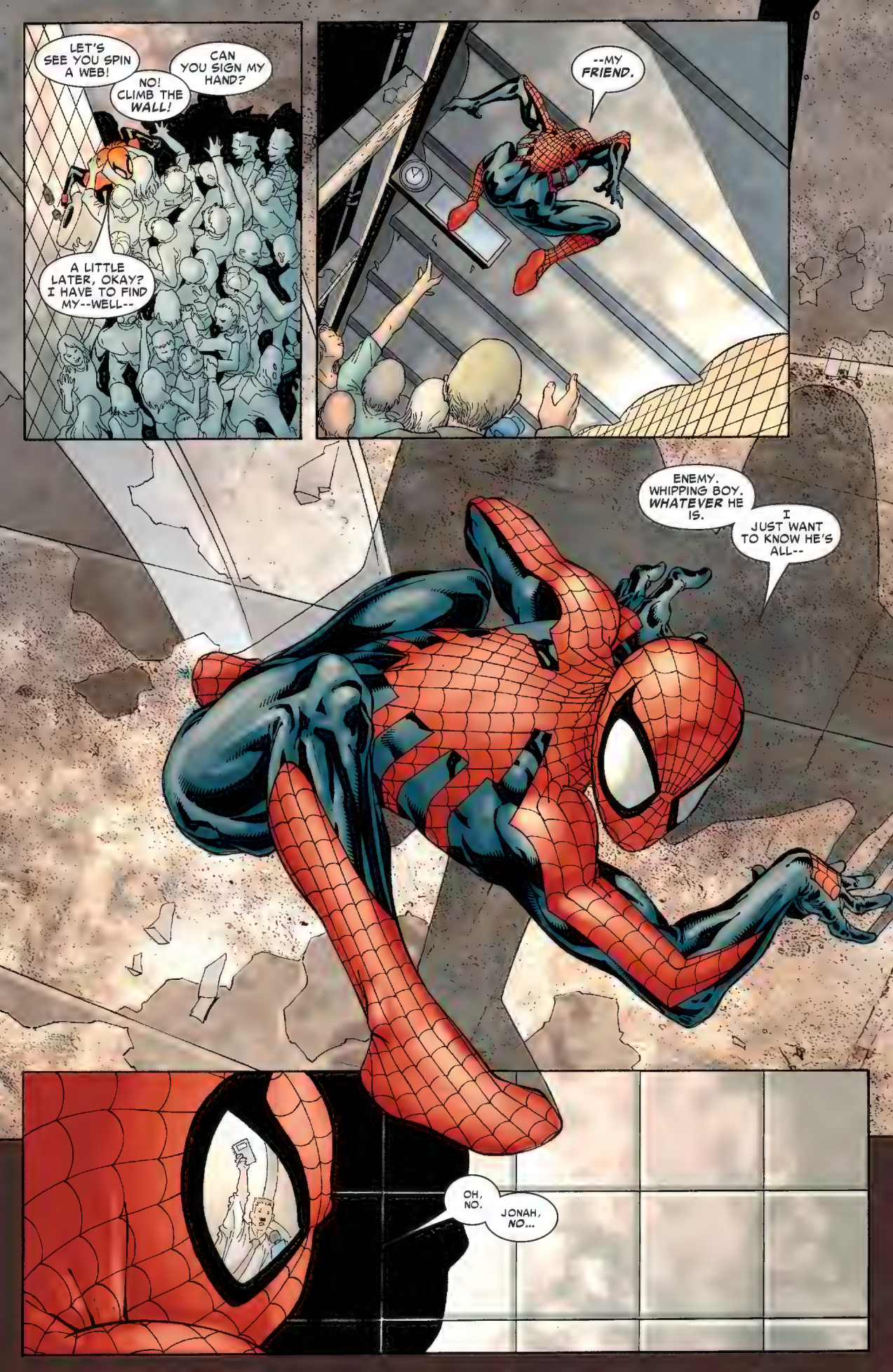
YES, I BUILT THAT GLIDER. MODEL #041560-NO. VEERS TO THE LEFT UNLESS YOU--
NORMAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HE COULD HAVE *GOTTEN* IT? OR WHO HE *IS*?
ASK YOUR *WIFE*.
WHAT?
PARKER, DO YOU KEEP TRACK OF YOUR BUSINESS *AT ALL*? YOU *KNOW* YOU JUST PAID ME A RIDICULOUSLY LARGE SUM FOR MY PATENTS AND PROTOTYPES, RIGHT?
WELL, NOT *RIDICULOUS*--
GWEN WAS IN MY LAB ALL DAY *YESTERDAY*, TAKING INVENTORY. TAKING *POSSESSION*.
THAT GLIDER ISN'T *MINE*, PARKER...
...IT'S *YOURS*.

I CAN'T WALK ANYMORE.
I CAN'T.
I CAN'T.
AHHHH!
UHHHRR! MY BACK--!
MISTER, ARE YOU...HEY! ISN'T THIS THAT GUY WHO GETS YELLED AT ON TV?
DON'T TOUCH HIM! HE'S FILTHY!
NGGGHHH--! MY BOOK!
GET AWAY FROM MY BOOK!


SPIDER-KID, SPIDER-KID, DID WHATEVER A SPIDER DID...
HAHAAHA!!
BRAAA
NOW MAGAZINE
SPIDEY'S WHIPPING BOY
THIS BETTER BE YOU, RHINO.
STILL HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM?
OH. HI, UNCLE BEN. NO, AND I CAN'T REACH CRUSHER, EITHER. I GUESS I SHOULD GO OVER TO HIS PLACE.
NOT YET. A FRIEND AT CHANNEL TWO GOT A TIP ABOUT JONAH. HE WAS SEEN JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO, ON THE V TRAIN PLATFORM AT QUEENS PLAZA...
...RAVING LIKE A LUNATIC.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WE GOT A LEAD ON JONAH. HE MIGHT BE HEADED HOME. I'M GOING TO TRACK HIM ON THE SUBWAY.
AS SPIDER-MAN? WHY THE COSTUME?
C'MON, GWENDY. EVEN WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING...
...I STILL HAVE A MOVIE TO PROMOTE.

STAND CLEAR OF THE DOORS.
ALMOST HOME.
NOW IF I CAN JUST MAKE IT THERE ALIVE AND UNSEEN...
HEY, LOOK!
SPIDER-MAN!
WHAT'S HE DOING IN THE SUBWAY?
SPIDEY! OVER HERE!
THE FINAL CHAPTER
HEY, EVERYBODY! IT'S SPIDEY!
+GROAAAN+
IT'S REALLY YOU, ISN'T IT?
YOU TAKE THE SUBWAY?
WELL, NOT SO MUCH--
I TOUCHED HIM!
AUUUGGH.

LISTEN, PLEASE...
CAN I GET A PASS FOR YOUR MOVIE?
ME, TOO!
MAYBE. MAYBE. BUT I NEED YOUR HELP. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
HAS ANYONE SEEN THIS MAN?
HIM? I JUST RODE WITH HIM!
ME, TOO! HE WAS ALL SMELLY AND TALKIN' TO HIMSELF!
HE GOT OUT RIGHT HERE AT THIS STATION!
HE WENT THAT WAY, SPIDER-MAN!
HE DID! I SAW HIM TOO!
WHAT IN BLAZES--?
TURN THAT BLASTED LIGHT--
OH.
IT'S YOU.

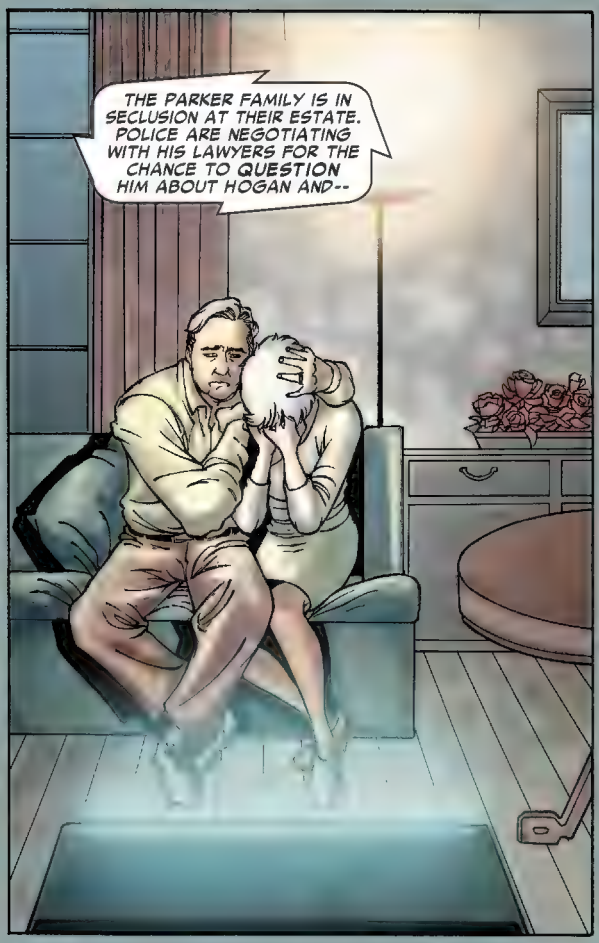

LET'S SEE YOU SPIN A WEB!
NO! CLIMB THE WALL!
CAN YOU SIGN MY HAND?
A LITTLE LATER, OKAY? I HAVE TO FIND MY--WELL--
--MY FRIEND.
ENEMY. WHIPPING BOY. WHATEVER HE IS.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW HE'S ALL--
OH, NO.
JONAH, NO...

--AND HANDWRITING ANALYSIS WILL VERIFY THIS CONCRETE EVIDENCE I HOLD BEFORE YOU--
--THIS SMOKING GUN WROUGHT BY PARKER'S OWN WEBBED HAND!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS JOURNAL REVEALS THE TRUTH ABOUT PETER PARKER! HIS POWERS ARE NOT GENETIC! THEY ARE SIMPLY THE RESULT OF A LABORATORY ACCIDENT WHEN HE WAS A TEENAGER!
THAT'S RIGHT! REMEMBER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES WHERE YOU WERE AND WHAT YOU WERE DOING THE DAY YOU LEARNED THAT THE WORLD-FAMOUS SPIDER-MAN IS NOT A MUTANT--
--HE IS A HOMO SAPIEN!
...NO, NO, NO, NO...

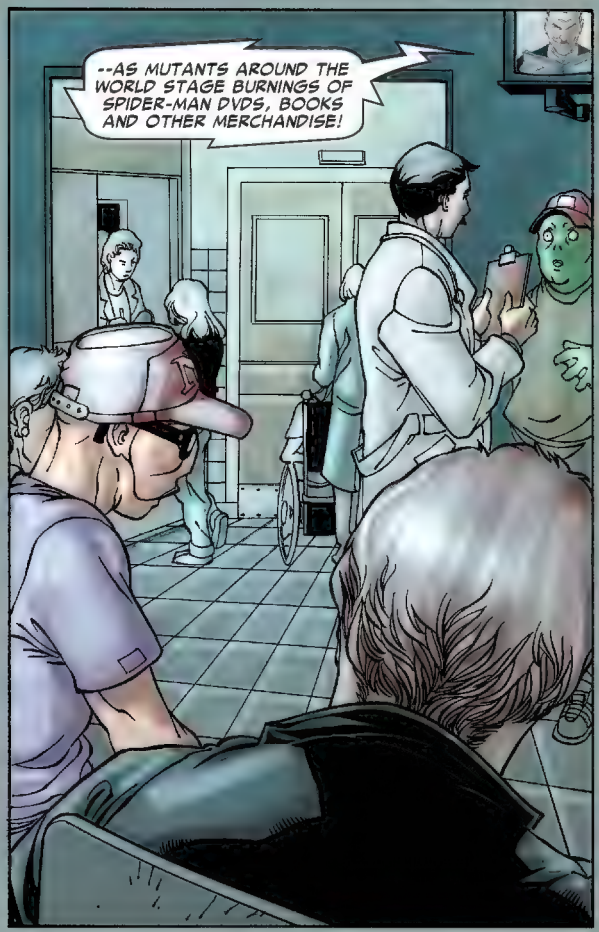
SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #3

OUR TOP STORY: HUMANS WALK AMONG US!
THE MUTANT MAJORITY RESPONDS WITH FEAR TO PROOF THAT PETER PARKER, THE SUCCESSFUL AND POPULAR SPIDER-MAN, WAS ONLY PASSING FOR MUTANT--
ACTION
THE END OF SPIDER-MAN
PARKER HAS YET TO FACE PUBLIC IN SCANDAL - "GREEN GOBLIN" IN CRITICAL CONDITION

--AFTER AN EMPLOYEE, J. JONAH JAMESON, CAME FORWARD WITH PARKER'S PERSONAL DIARY.
IT SAYS IN PARKER'S OWN HAND THAT HIS POWERS CAME FROM A SPIDER-BITE AND NOT, AS HE ALWAYS CLAIMED, A MUTATION.
GWEN? I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO ASK--
NO, DADDY. HE NEVER TOLD ME.
PARKER'S NEW BIG-BUDGET MOVIE HAS BEEN PULLED FROM THEATERS--
SPIDER-M
ACTION3
--AND HIS STOCK IS IN FREE-FALL AS POLICE AGENCIES CANCEL CONTRACTS TO BUY HIS COMPANY'S WEB-SHOOTERS.
OUCH. THAT ALONE WILL RUIN YOU, PARKER.
THIS CALLS FOR CHAMPAGNE.
--D.A. IS LOOKING INTO CHARGES THAT PARKER ORDERED HIS BODYGUARD, THE RHINO, TO ASSAULT CRUSHER HOGAN, THE BELOVED WRESTLER KNOWN AS THE GREEN GOBLIN--
ALL NEWS 6
FILE FOOTAGE

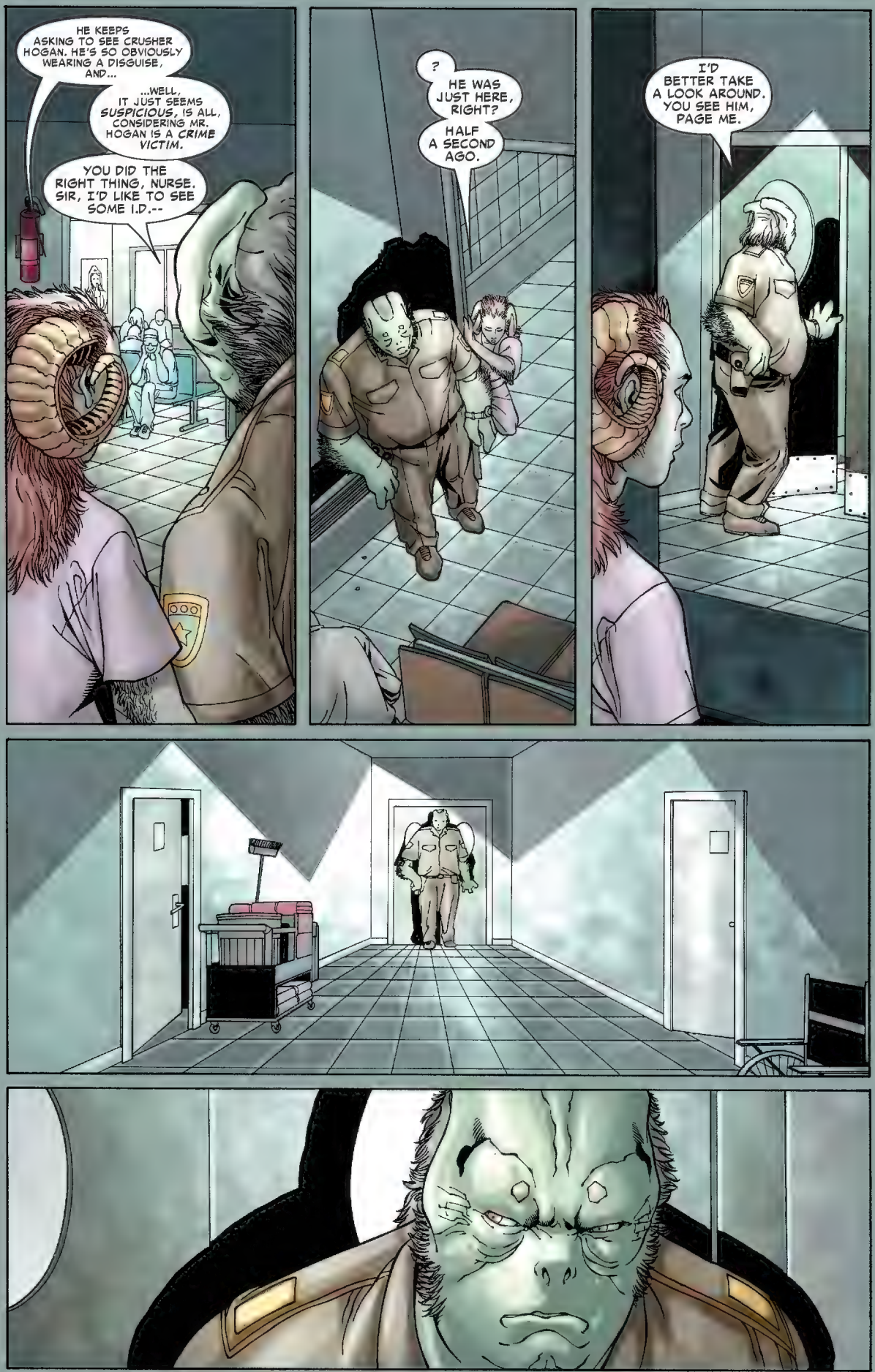

THE PARKER FAMILY IS IN SECLUSION AT THEIR ESTATE. POLICE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH HIS LAWYERS FOR THE CHANCE TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT HOGAN AND--

--THE CASE OF A MANHATTAN BOY SERIOUSLY BEATEN BY HIS SCHOOLMATES FOR WEARING A SPIDER-MAN T-SHIRT--
NEWSWITNESS 19


--AS MUTANTS AROUND THE WORLD STAGE BURNINGS OF SPIDER-MAN DVDS, BOOKS AND OTHER MERCHANDISE!

--AND BACK WITH US IS J. JONAH JAMESON, WHO BROKE THE STORY OF THE YEAR. JONAH, HOW DID YOU GET YOUR BOSS'S DIARY?
WHO CARES? IT'S WHAT'S IN IT THAT COUNTS! LISTEN--
Peter Parker's Journal -keep out-
ACTION

"MY FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY AND I'M ALL ALONE IN MY HEART, LIKE THE MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN. OH, LIZ, HOW I DREAM OF TAKING YOUR GOLDEN HAIR LIKE SPUN GOLD IN MY MONSTROUS HANDS--
Parker's
ACTION
"--AND GAZING INTO YOUR EYES SO BLUE. BUT NO. WE SCIENTISTS SOLVE ONLY THE EQUATIONS OF THE MIND, NEVER THE HEART. EVER ALONE MUST I TREAD THE PATH TO KNOWLEDGE. FOR--"
ARE YOU COMING TO THE PART WHERE THE SPIDER BITES HIM?
WAIT! THIS IS PRICELESS!
"--FOR ON THIS, MY SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY, I LOOK AHEAD AND WONDER... AS WONDER I MUST. WILL MINE BE THE MIND THAT CURES CANCER? WILL I BE LOVED FOR MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS? OR WILL ALL I HAVE TO TENDERLY--" HUH-HAAAA..."WILL ALL I HAVE--" HAAAHAHA--
Peter Parker's Journal
ACTION
MR. JAMESON, PLEASE.
"WILL ALL I HAVE TO TENDERLY KISS IN THE NIGHT BE MY PILLOW?" HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!
NO.


HE KEEPS ASKING TO SEE CRUSHER HOGAN. HE'S SO OBVIOUSLY WEARING A DISGUISE, AND...
...WELL, IT JUST SEEMS *SUSPICIOUS*, IS ALL, CONSIDERING MR. HOGAN IS A *CRIME VICTIM.*
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, NURSE. SIR, I'D LIKE TO SEE SOME I.D.--
?
HE WAS JUST HERE, RIGHT?
HALF A SECOND AGO.
I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK AROUND. YOU SEE HIM, PAGE ME.

PETER PARKER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I SNUCK IN TO CHECK ON CRUSHER HOGAN. THEN I HEARD ABOUT THE LITTLE *SPIDEY-FAN* HERE.
DID YOU HEAR *HE* GOT BEATEN WITHIN AN INCH OF HIS LIFE BECAUSE HE LOVES ME?
IT'S LIKE A NEW *FAD*.
I THOUGHT MAYBE HE MIGHT RESPOND TO A FRIENDLY FACE, SO I LOST MY *DISGUISE*.
IT'S BEEN A *WEEK* FOR THAT.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE TRESPASSING.
SO ARREST ME.
YOU'RE NOT HERE TO HURT ANYONE?
IT'S NOT SOMETHING I HAVE TO *WORK* AT.

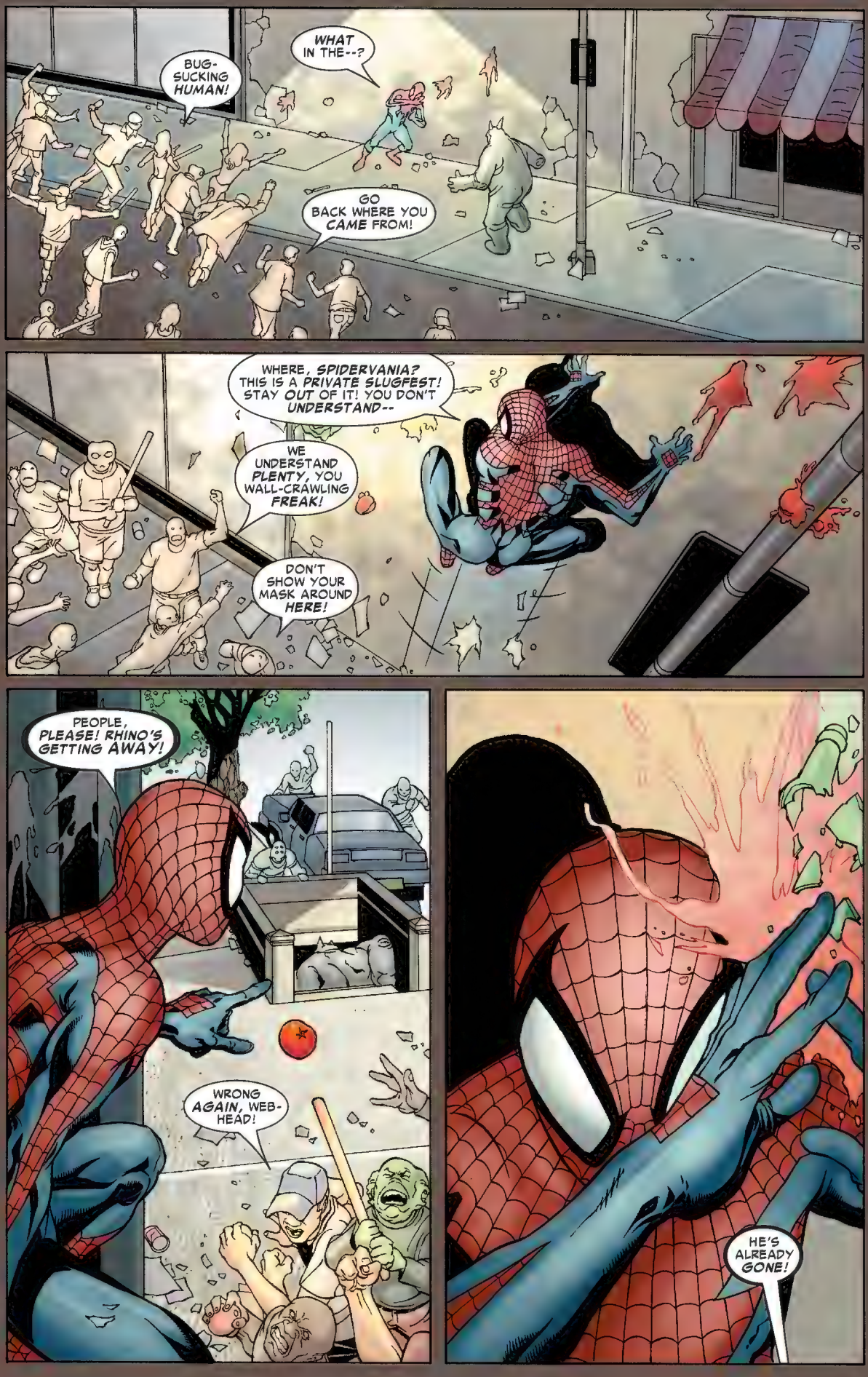
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE WITH HIM.
BUT TAKE YOUR TIME. MY SHIFT'S ABOUT OVER, AND I'M NOT IN A HURRY TO GET ANYWHERE.
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
DON'T YOU GET CABLE? SOMEONE DRESSED AS THE GREEN GOBLIN GAVE MY DIARY TO A MAN WITH A HAIRCUT LIKE A SCRUB BRUSH. NOW THE WORLD KNOWS I'M A FAKE AND THAT I USED TO MAKE OUT WITH MY PILLOW.
THEN MY BODYGUARD BEAT AND NEARLY KILLED THE REAL GREEN GOBLIN-- WHICH IS TO SAY THE WRONG GREEN GOBLIN.
WHICH MADE EVERYONE HATE ME EVEN MORE.
EXCEPT THAT KID, UNFORTUNATELY.

NO, I MEAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
YOU WERE ON TOP OF THE WORLD. A FEW DAYS AND SOME SETBACKS LATER, YOU'RE PATHETIC.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? HUMANS ARE WEAK. THAT'S WHY MUTANTS RULE. DIDN'T THEY TEACH YOU ANYTHING GROWING UP?
DON'T GET ME WRONG. I DON'T LIKE HUMANS.
BUT I ALWAYS LIKED YOU.
GIARUSSO!
GIARUSSO, WHERE ARE YA?

WHAT DO YOU WANT, MAN? I'M OFF DUTY.
YOU'RE BACK *ON.* EVERY AVAILABLE MAN IS BEING MOBILIZED TO *TIMES SQUARE.*
IT'S *THE RHINO!* HE'S GONE CRAZY, TEARING UP EVERYTHING IN *SIGHT!*
I'LL GET MY GEAR AND MEET YOU AT B EXIT.
HEAR THAT?
GOOD.
STOP WHINING AND *DO* SOMETHING.

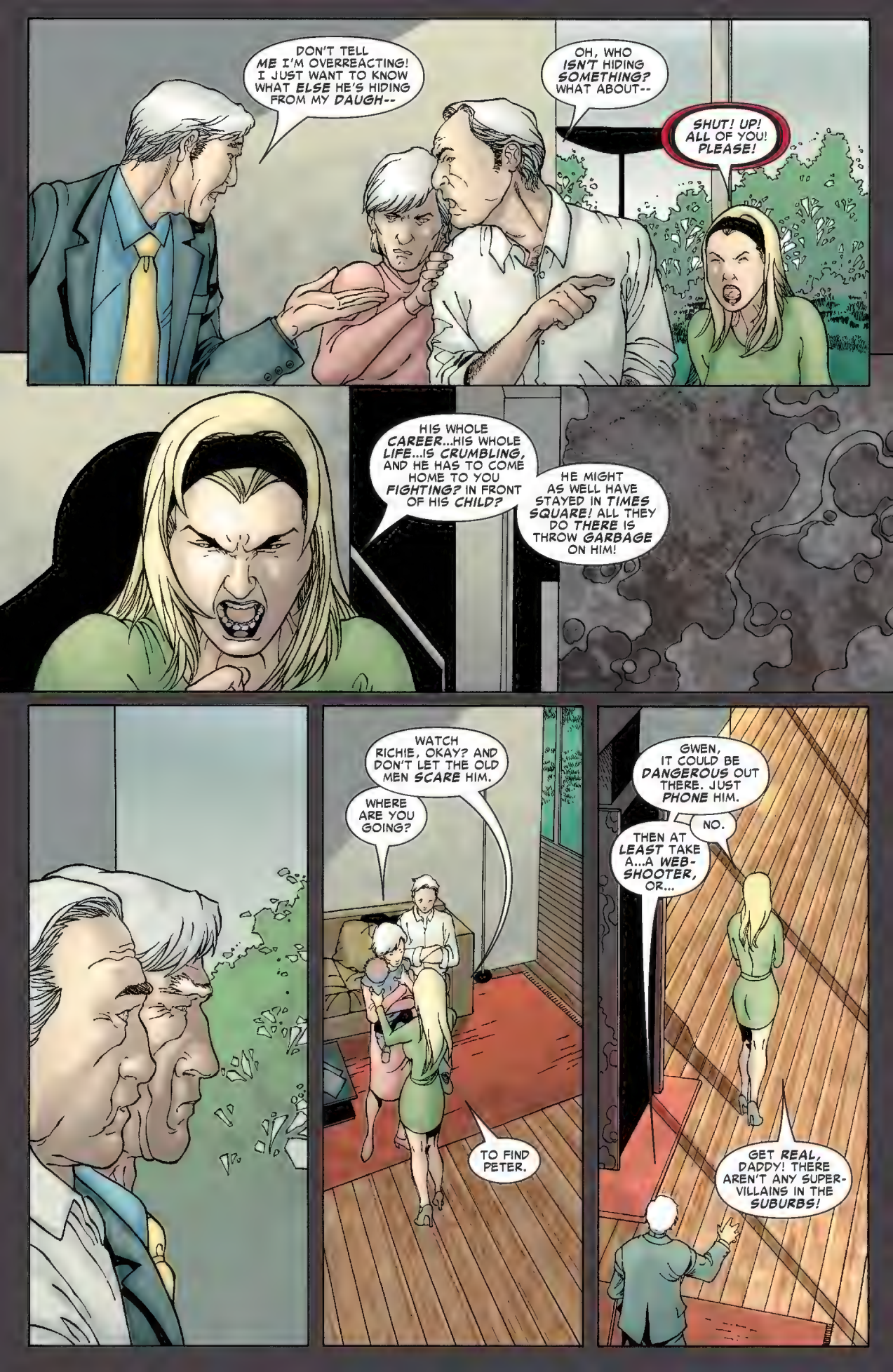
STAY BACK!
STOP STARIN' AT ME! I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'!
I JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE!
THEN YOU'RE SENDING A MIXED MESSAGE, RHINO--
THWIP

--'CAUSE IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE BEGGING FOR A FIGHT!
YOU!
OH, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE MAD AT ME AFTER WHAT YOU DID!
I WAS JUST FOLLOWIN' YOUR ORDERS!
IT'S YOUR FAULT! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME INTO SOME HIGH-CLASS BODY-GUARD! I'M JUST ME! A CHEAP, STUPID MUG!
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, PAL, I KNOW JUST HOW YOU FEEL! I--
HOLD THAT THOUGHT!
I'M HAVING A SPIDER-SENSE MOMENT!
KUNG!


BUG-SUCKING HUMAN!
WHAT IN THE--?
GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM!
WHERE, SPIDERVANIA? THIS IS A PRIVATE SLUGFEST! STAY OUT OF IT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--
WE UNDERSTAND PLENTY, YOU WALL-CRAWLING FREAK!
DON'T SHOW YOUR MASK AROUND HERE!
PEOPLE, PLEASE! RHINO'S GETTING AWAY!
WRONG AGAIN, WEB-HEAD!
HE'S ALREADY GONE!

SHOULD BE SAFE TO GO BACK OUT NEXT YEAR SOMETIME.
IF THE FREAKIN' VULTURE COULD SEE ME NOW...
...HE'D LAUGH AS HARD AS ME!
HAAAAHAHAHA!
WHO-- WHO'S THERE?
FIRST HINT: I'M GREEN!
SECOND HINT: I'M A GOBLIN!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TO FREE YOU!
FROM THAT FREAKISH ARMOR!
FROM YOUR TROUBLE WITH THE LAW!
LIKE I SAID. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
EVERY LAST SHRED OF PETER PARKER'S DIGNITY!
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO SHARE IN THAT?
...SAW THE RHINO COME THIS WAY, SARGE...
STUNNERS DRAWN, MEN. HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.
BEHIND PARKER'S HOUSE.
MEET ME TONIGHT.

THE PARKER ESTATE THAT EVENING.
...AND I CAN'T TELL YOU ENOUGH HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU ALL AND HOW SORRY I AM FOR...EVERYTHING. MOST OF ALL, I'M SORRY I LIED TO YOU ALL THESE YEARS.
SO DO WE KNOW THE WHOLE TRUTH NOW?
DADDY!
PETER--
IF YOU LISTEN TO THE TELEVISION, YOU COMMITTED THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY.
I KNOW, AUNT MAY.
WELL, DON'T LISTEN TO THE TELEVISION!
YOU'RE A GREAT MAN. WE'VE OWED YOU EVERYTHING WE HAVE--AND WE STILL DO.
I DON'T SEE HOW THAT JUSTIFIES LYING.
OH, GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE, STACY!
ALL THIS BOY EVER WANTED WAS TO USE HIS GIFTS TO...TO BE ACCEPTED IN A BIGOTED SOCIETY. TO PROVIDE FOR HIS LOVED ONES.
SO IT'S OKAY TO LIVE A FALSE LIFE SO LONG AS YOU GET AHEAD IN IT?
YOU'RE REALLY OVERREACTING, GEORGE!
I...I JUST CAN'T LISTEN TO THEM FIGHT RIGHT NOW, GWEN. NOT OVER ME. I HAVE TO GO...
WAIT...!


DON'T TELL ME I'M OVERREACTING! I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT ELSE HE'S HIDING FROM MY DAUGH--
OH, WHO ISN'T HIDING SOMETHING? WHAT ABOUT--
SHUT! UP! ALL OF YOU! PLEASE!
HIS WHOLE CAREER...HIS WHOLE LIFE...IS CRUMBLING, AND HE HAS TO COME HOME TO YOU FIGHTING? IN FRONT OF HIS CHILD?
HE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE STAYED IN TIMES SQUARE! ALL THEY DO THERE IS THROW GARBAGE ON HIM!
WATCH RICHIE, OKAY? AND DON'T LET THE OLD MEN SCARE HIM.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO FIND PETER.
GWEN, IT COULD BE DANGEROUS OUT THERE. JUST PHONE HIM.
NO.
THEN AT LEAST TAKE A...A WEB-SHOOTER, OR...
GET REAL, DADDY! THERE AREN'T ANY SUPER-VILLAINS IN THE SUBURBS!

HAAAAHAHAHA!
COME ON.
GET HERE.
SO, RHINO...WE MEET IN THE LION'S DEN.
I LOVE IT.
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, GOBLIN...

...BUT I BROUGHT SOME OF MY BUDDIES ALONG.

FAKE GREEN GOBLIN, THIS IS VULTURE, ELECTRO AND THE OX.
BOYS, THIS IS THE PSYCHO SCUM WHO COST ME THE BEST LIFE I EVER COULDA HOPED FOR.
KILL HIM!
-HUUK-

NOW, SPARKY!
EAAAGH!
PETER...?

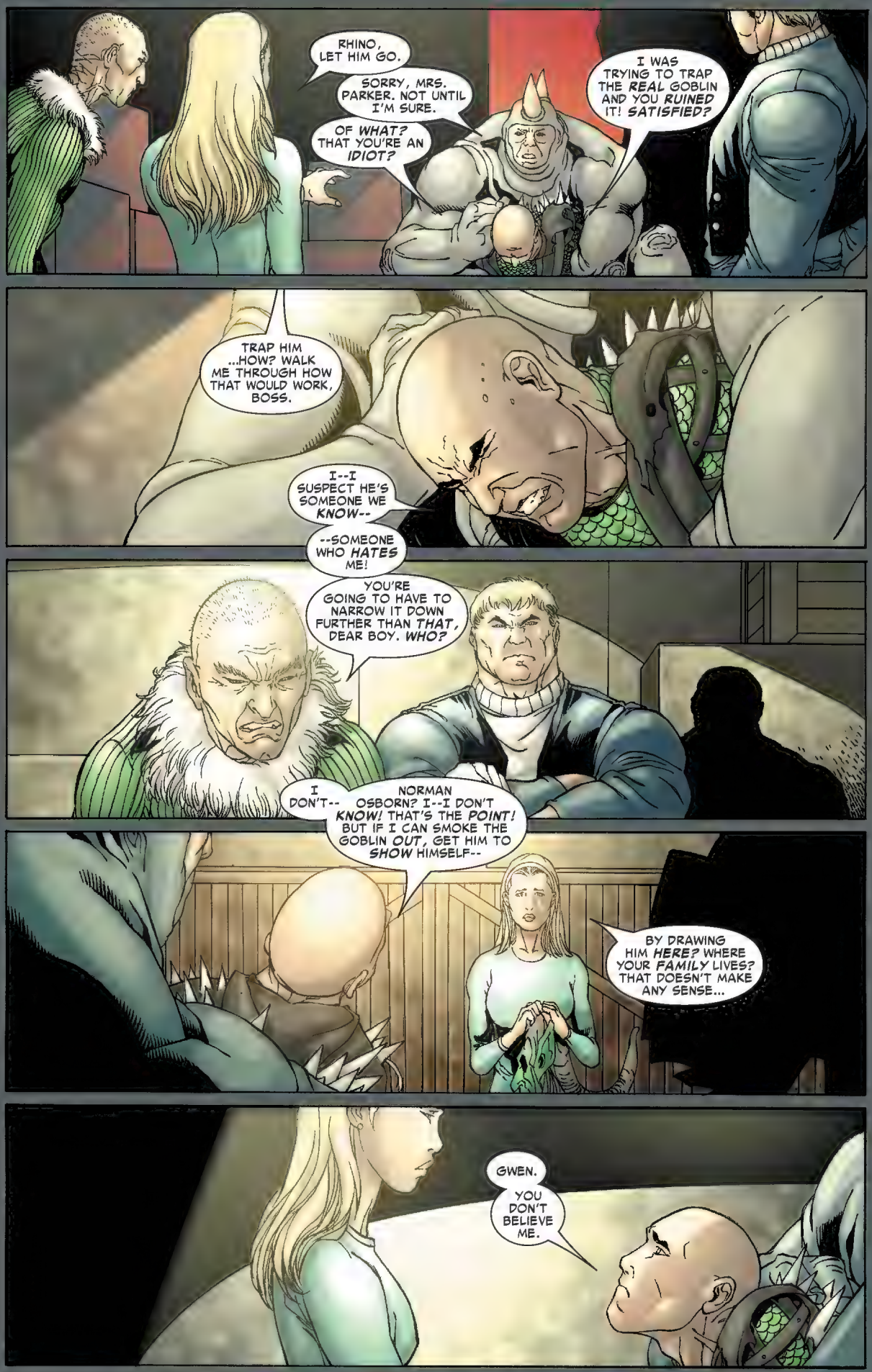
ELECTRO...
TEK!
FWOOM!
...DIE!
YOUR TURN.

NO--!
=HUNNH=
AAAH!
AND YOU! STAY BACK IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!
GET HIS MASK!
RHINO, WHAT'S HAPPENING--?
I GOT THE GOBLIN! SOMEBODY TAKE THAT MASK OFFA HIM! LET'S SEE WHO WE'RE DEALIN' WITH!

BOSS...?
WHAT?

SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #4

OKAY, I KNOW THIS LOOKS BAD...
NOT *NNFH* NOT YET, BOSS.
FIRST, WE WANNA KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOIN' IN THAT GETUP.
...BUT GET! OFF! ME!

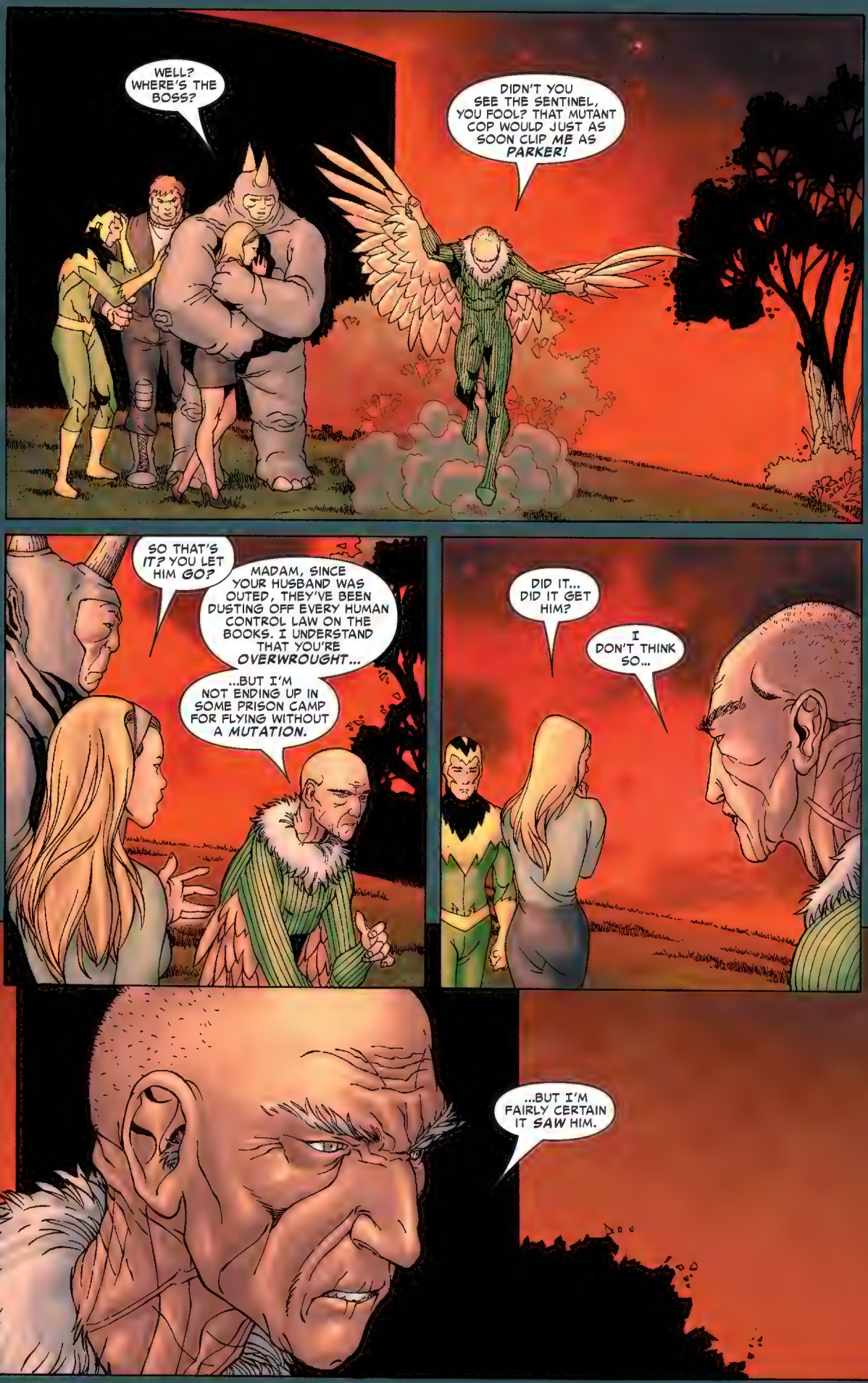

RHINO, LET HIM GO.
SORRY, MRS. PARKER. NOT UNTIL I'M SURE.
OF WHAT? THAT YOU'RE AN IDIOT?
I WAS TRYING TO TRAP THE REAL GOBLIN AND YOU RUINED IT! SATISFIED?
TRAP HIM ...HOW? WALK ME THROUGH HOW THAT WOULD WORK, BOSS.
I--I SUSPECT HE'S SOMEONE WE KNOW--
--SOMEONE WHO HATES ME!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO NARROW IT DOWN FURTHER THAN THAT, DEAR BOY. WHO?
I DON'T--
NORMAN OSBORN? I--I DON'T KNOW! THAT'S THE POINT! BUT IF I CAN SMOKE THE GOBLIN OUT, GET HIM TO SHOW HIMSELF--
BY DRAWING HIM HERE? WHERE YOUR FAMILY LIVES? THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...
GWEN.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.

HRAAAAHH--
ARRRHH!
THAT HURT, YOU LITTLE--
THWIP
FREE ME!
BOSS, C'MON! YOU DON'T WANT TO--
FREE ME!
HUUUK

DUDE, THAT'S YOUR WIFE...!
+UCCCHH+
NOW STAY BACK! ALL OF YOU!
SHUT UP, OX! I MEAN IT!
PETER... YOU'D DO IT... YOU'D KILL ME...
THE GOBLIN ALREADY KILLED YOU. IT'S IN MY JOURNAL.
THWIP
WHAT...?
NOTHING. THIS IS ALL A BLUFF. I'D NEVER HURT YOU. PLEASE KNOW THAT. I JUST NEED TO GET AWAY.
WHERE...?
WHERE I BELONG. DO SOMETHING FOR ME, GWEN. DO ONE THING FOR ME. PLEASE.
WHAT...?
DON'T LET ME NEAR OUR BABY.

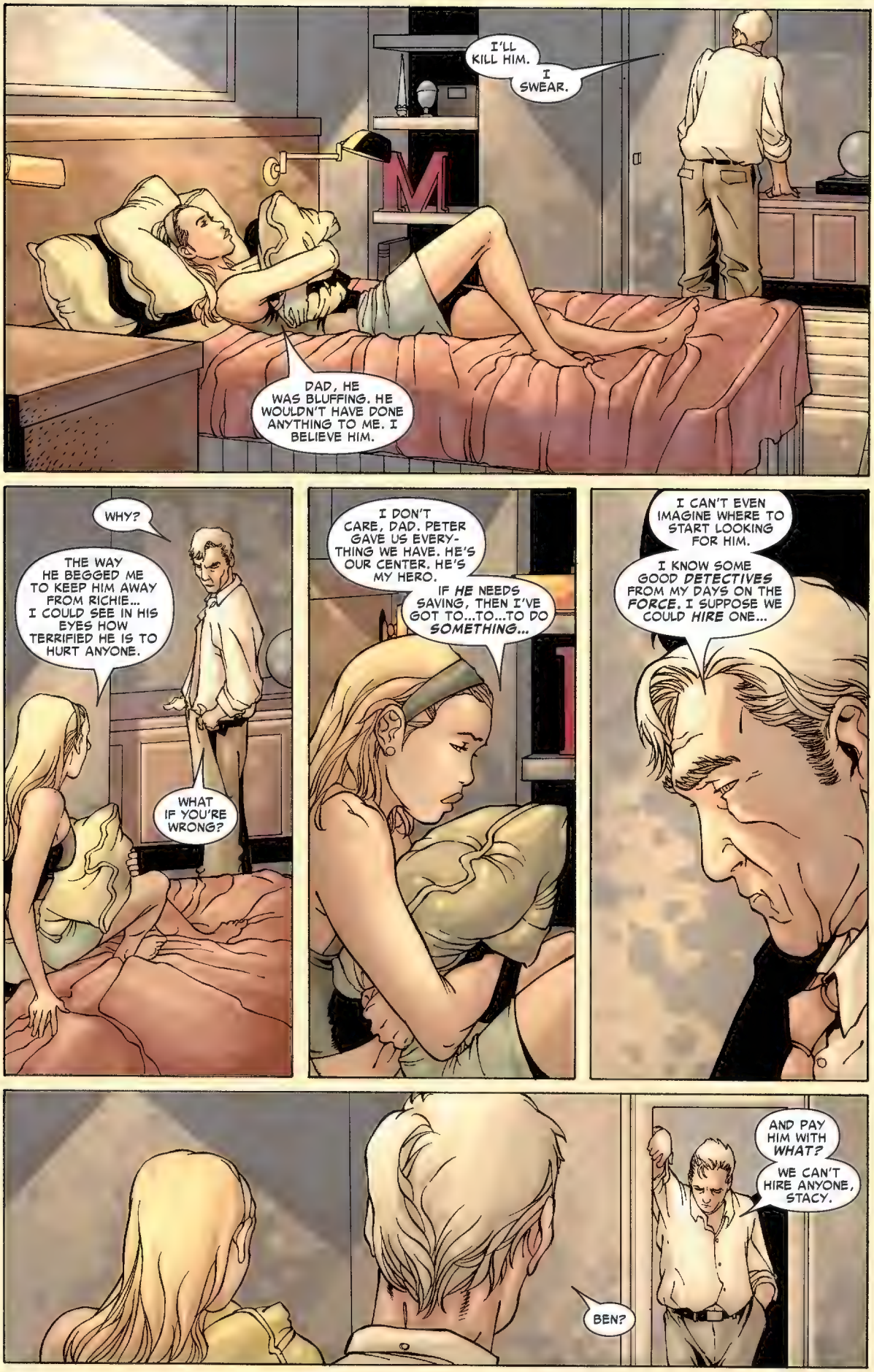
AFTER HIM, VULTURE!
PETER!
TAKE IT EASY...
...HE WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME.
HALT

HUMANS
HALT
HUMANS
HALT
HALT
HALT
HALT
MAKE ME!


WELL? WHERE'S THE BOSS?
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE SENTINEL, YOU FOOL? THAT MUTANT COP WOULD JUST AS SOON CLIP ME AS PARKER!
SO THAT'S IT? YOU LET HIM GO?
MADAM, SINCE YOUR HUSBAND WAS OUTED, THEY'VE BEEN DUSTING OFF EVERY HUMAN CONTROL LAW ON THE BOOKS. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE OVERWROUGHT...
...BUT I'M NOT ENDING UP IN SOME PRISON CAMP FOR FLYING WITHOUT A MUTATION.
DID IT... DID IT GET HIM?
I DON'T THINK SO...
...BUT I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN IT SAW HIM.

NOW, MR. JAMESON, YOUR REVELATION THAT SPIDER-MAN WAS ONLY *PASSING* FOR MUTANT HAS STIRRED UP SO MUCH ANTI-HUMAN ACTIVITY, MUCH OF IT VIOLENT--
--THAT MANY HOMO SAPIENS ARE CALLING YOU A TRAITOR TO YOUR OWN KIND.
LET'S NOT GET SIDETRACKED! THE *REAL* ISSUE IS THAT WALL-CRAWLING *WEASEL!*
WHILE HIS SICK CHARADE EARNED HIM *BILLIONS*, HE LIED TO *BANKS*, HE LIED TO THE *GOVERNMENT*--
FINE, BUT WHY DO YOU THINK THIS "GREEN GOBLIN" SIMPLY *GAVE* YOU PARKER'S SECRET JOURNAL? YES, IT'S *IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE* OF PARKER'S *LIES*--BUT DO YOU WONDER IF THIS "GOBLIN" MADE YOU A PAWN IN HIS *OWN* AGENDA, AND WHAT THAT MIGHT *BE?*
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THE GOBLIN'S A *HERO!* BUT BACK TO PARKER--
I'VE GOT TO STOP YOU THERE. WE HAVE BREAKING NEWS OUT OF CONNECTICUT--
--PICTURES FROM A SENTINEL-CAM THAT SEEM TO SHOW--JIM, IS THIS RIGHT? YES?
--PICTURES WHICH *PROVE* THAT PETER PARKER *IS* THE GREEN GOBLIN!
WHAT?

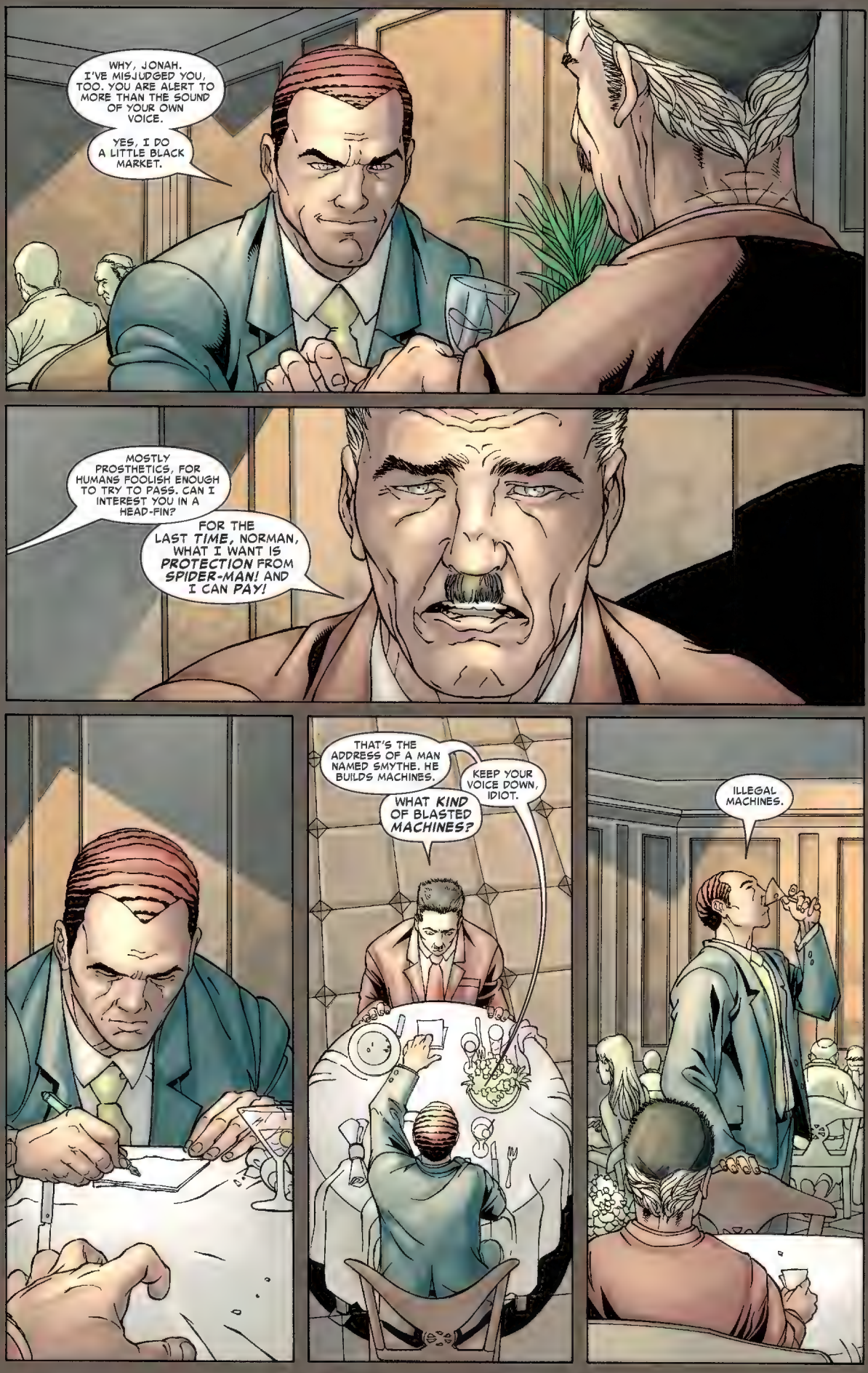
STEP OVER HERE, PLEASE.
IS...IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
LET'S SEE SOME IDENTIFICATION.
HOMO SAPIEN.
Y-YOU'RE *KIDDING*, RIGHT? DO I LOOK LIKE A 'SAP?
PROSTHETIC.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR CURFEW VIOLATION. UNDER THE EMERGENCY HOMO SAPIEN FREEDOMS ACT, YOU DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT, OR TO AN ATTORNEY.
'SAPS. WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON, WHY DON'T YOU STAY HOME?
DON'T TRY TO FIGURE THEM OUT. JUST STAY ALERT.
IF *SPIDER-MAN* COULD TURN OUT TO BE HUMAN, *ANYONE* CAN.

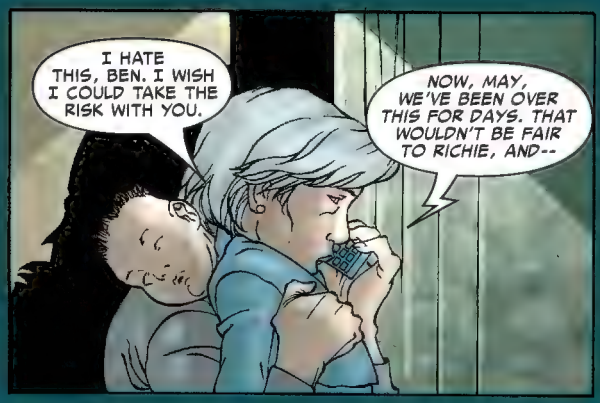

I'LL KILL HIM. I SWEAR.
DAD, HE WAS BLUFFING. HE WOULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO ME. I BELIEVE HIM.
WHY?
THE WAY HE BEGGED ME TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM RICHIE... I COULD SEE IN HIS EYES HOW TERRIFIED HE IS TO HURT ANYONE.
WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG?
I DON'T CARE, DAD. PETER GAVE US EVERYTHING WE HAVE. HE'S OUR CENTER. HE'S MY HERO.
IF *HE* NEEDS SAVING, THEN I'VE GOT TO...TO...TO DO *SOMETHING*...
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHERE TO START LOOKING FOR HIM.
I KNOW SOME GOOD *DETECTIVES* FROM MY DAYS ON THE *FORCE*. I SUPPOSE WE COULD *HIRE* ONE...
BEN?
AND PAY HIM WITH *WHAT?*
WE CAN'T HIRE ANYONE, STACY.

ONCE PETER WAS EXPOSED, EVERYTHING HE'S BUILT BEGAN CRUMBLING. THE HOUSE OF M HAS ISSUED AN IMPERIAL ORDER. THEY'RE CONFISCATING EVERYTHING WE OWN, DOWN TO THE LAST WEB-SHOOTER.
ALL THE CHARITIES WE FUNDED, ALL THE GOOD WORKS...BY THE END OF THE MONTH, SPIDER-MAN ENTERPRISES WILL BE A MEMORY. AND WE'LL BE OUT ON THE STREET.
HUH.
WELL.
WE HAD A TIME, DIDN'T WE? WHAT A RUN.
WE'LL FIND A WAY TO HANG ON, BEN. IT'S ONLY MONEY...
I WANT MY BOY.
THEN LET'S GO GET HIM.

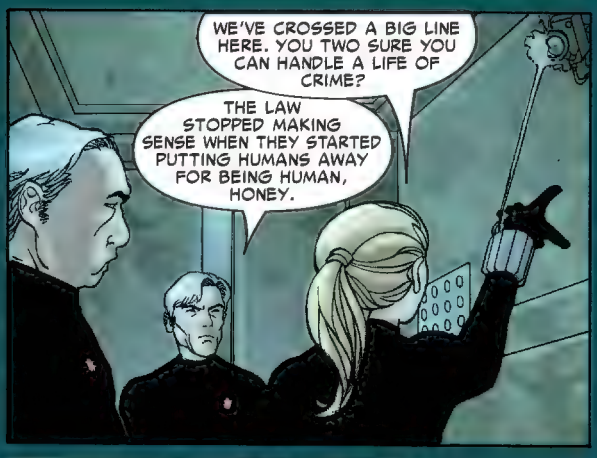
I'VE BOOSTED THE SIGNAL ON THESE TRACERS PETER TUNED TO HIS SPIDER-SENSE. IF WE KEEP WEARING THEM, HE MAY SEEK US OUT JUST TO STOP THE BUZZING IN HIS HEAD.
CLEVER.
IT'S A START, DAD. NOW, WHEN PETER WAS FREAKING OUT, HE SAID A WEIRD THING. "THE GOBLIN ALREADY KILLED YOU. IT'S IN MY JOURNAL."
THAT HORRIBLE BOOK AGAIN...
THAT "HORRIBLE BOOK" IS OUR ONLY CHANCE AT GETTING INSIDE PETER'S HEAD AND FIGURING OUT HOW WE CAN HELP HIM.
THAT BOOK IS JAMESON'S MEAL TICKET...AND HE HATES PETER.
WHAT COULD WE POSSIBLY SAY TO GET HIM TO HAND IT OVER?
THWIP.
THWIP

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, OSBORN!
HE GAVE YOU HIS OWN DIARY SO YOU COULD RUIN HIM? I MUST SAY I'M STUNNED.
I MIGHT ACTUALLY BE FORCED TO ADMIT THAT PARKER'S INTERESTING AFTER ALL.
INTERESTING? HE'S OUT OF HIS MIND!! AND WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'LL DO NEXT?
PUT ON A MAGNETO SUIT AND START CALLING YOU "TOAD"?
THIS ISN'T A LAUGHING MATTER, OSBORN!
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
PROTECTION. YOU'VE BUILT DEATH RAYS AND MINI-BOMBS AND WHO-KNOWS-WHAT-OTHER ROTTEN THINGS.
AND I SOLD THEM ALL. TO PARKER.
YOU DIDN'T KEEP... ANYTHING?
YOU SHOULD BE THE MUTANTS' FAVORITE PET ABOUT NOW, JONAH. WHY DON'T YOU GO HIDE BEHIND MAGNETO'S CAPE AND LET THE REST OF YOUR PEOPLE SUFFER IN SILENCE?
OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE WEAPONS. BUT YOU HAVE CONNECTIONS.
NOT ANYMORE. THE FALLOUT FROM YOUR EXPOSÉ HAS REDUCED US ALL TO... GOD HELP ME... YOUR LEVEL.
I'M LUCKY MY ASSETS HAVEN'T BEEN SEIZED. HAD I NOT SOLD AT SUCH A FORTUITOUS TIME, I'D BE PANHANDLING, YOU SHORT-SIGHTED CRETIN.
I DON'T MEAN YOUR OFFICIAL CONNECTIONS.

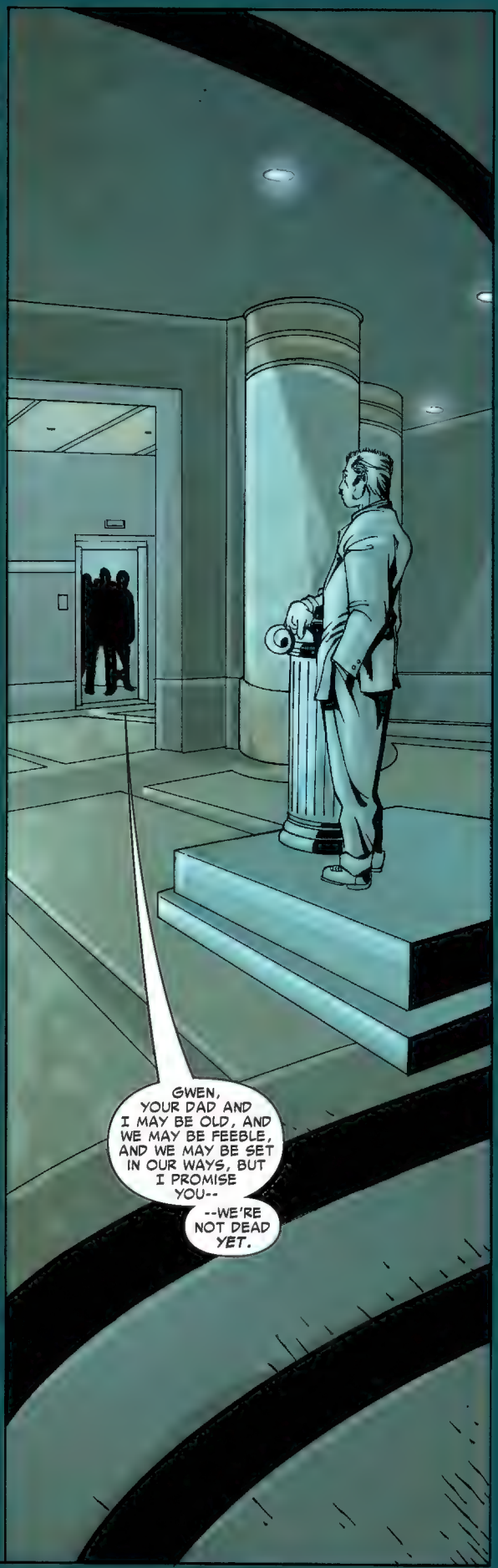

WHY, JONAH. I'VE MISJUDGED YOU, TOO. YOU ARE ALERT TO MORE THAN THE SOUND OF YOUR OWN VOICE.
YES, I DO A LITTLE BLACK MARKET.
MOSTLY PROSTHETICS, FOR HUMANS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO TRY TO PASS. CAN I INTEREST YOU IN A HEAD-FIN?
FOR THE LAST *TIME*, NORMAN, WHAT I WANT IS *PROTECTION* FROM *SPIDER-MAN!* AND I CAN *PAY!*
THAT'S THE ADDRESS OF A MAN NAMED SMYTHE. HE BUILDS MACHINES.
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, IDIOT.
WHAT *KIND* OF BLASTED *MACHINES?*
ILLEGAL MACHINES.


I HATE THIS, BEN. I WISH I COULD TAKE THE RISK WITH YOU.
NOW, MAY, WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS FOR DAYS. THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO RICHIE, AND--

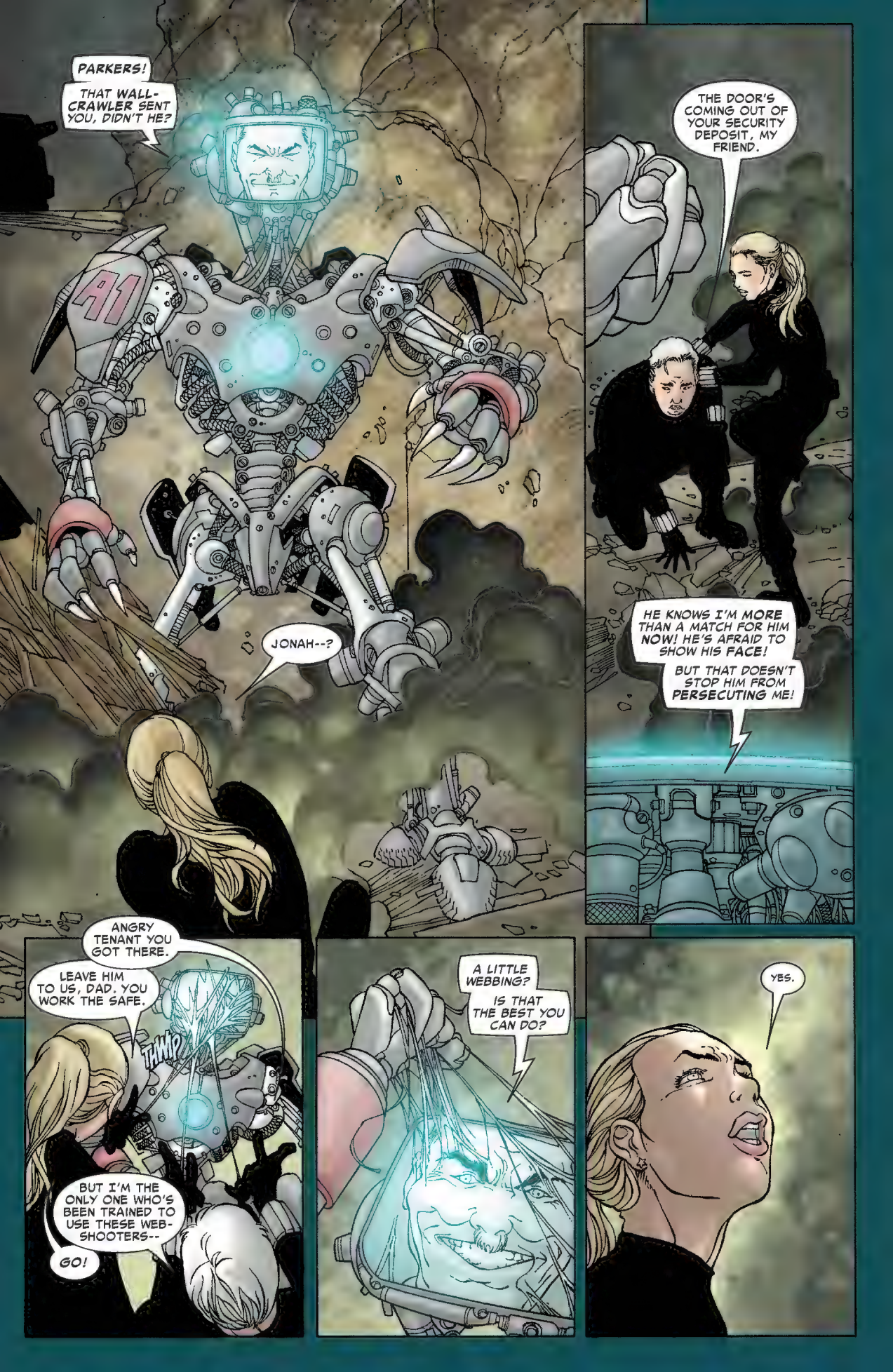
TRANG
UNCLE BEN?
GOTTA GO, MAY. LOVE YOU.


WE'VE CROSSED A BIG LINE HERE. YOU TWO SURE YOU CAN HANDLE A LIFE OF CRIME?
THE LAW STOPPED MAKING SENSE WHEN THEY STARTED PUTTING HUMANS AWAY FOR BEING HUMAN, HONEY.

BUT THIS...
NO. YOU TWO TAKE THE ELEVATOR BACK DOWN AND I'LL FINISH IT ALONE.


GWEN, YOUR DAD AND I MAY BE OLD, AND WE MAY BE FEEBLE, AND WE MAY BE SET IN OUR WAYS, BUT I PROMISE YOU--
--WE'RE NOT DEAD YET.

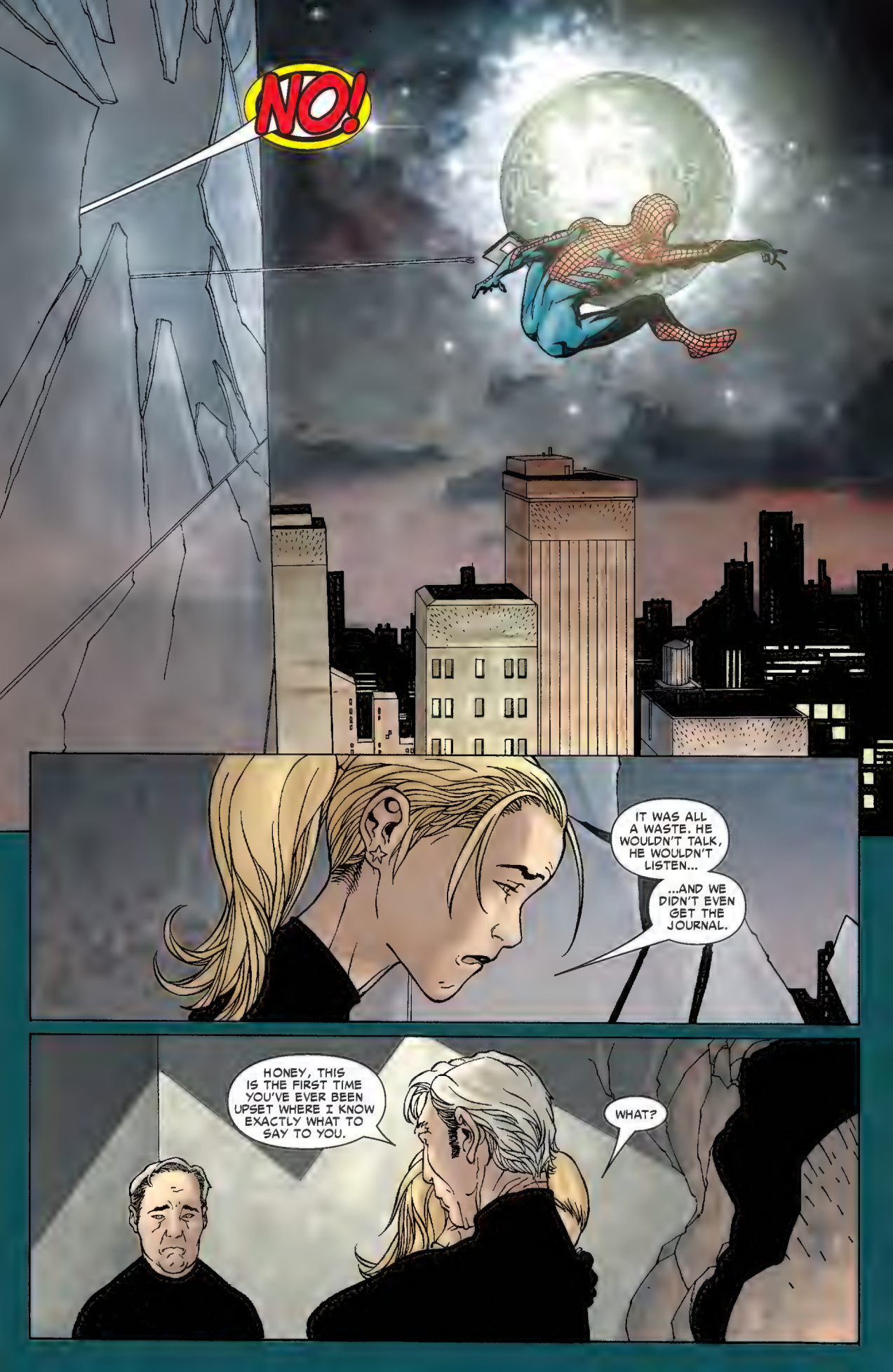
WOW.
HOW RICH IS JONAH?
RICH ENOUGH TO RENT FROM US. PETER NEVER HUMILIATED THE MAN WITHOUT DOUBLING HIS PAY AN HOUR LATER.
THE WALL SAFE'S THROUGH THERE.
LOCKED.
WAIT. ONE OF THESE PASSCARDS SHOULD--
SKADEN


PARKERS!
THAT WALL-CRAWLER SENT YOU, DIDN'T HE?
JONAH--?
THE DOOR'S COMING OUT OF YOUR SECURITY DEPOSIT, MY FRIEND.
HE KNOWS I'M MORE THAN A MATCH FOR HIM NOW! HE'S AFRAID TO SHOW HIS FACE!
BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP HIM FROM PERSECUTING ME!
ANGRY TENANT YOU GOT THERE.
LEAVE HIM TO US, DAD. YOU WORK THE SAFE.
THWIP
BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN TRAINED TO USE THESE WEB-SHOOTERS--
GO!
A LITTLE WEBBING?
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
YES.

SMYTHE, THIS IS AMAZING! YOU'RE WORTH TWICE WHAT I'M PAYING--
AHHH! FORGET I SAID THAT! HEAT OF THE MOMENT!
FUNNY, I DON'T SEE ANY MUTANTS PROTECTING YOU! AND AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR THEM!
SHUT UP!
THWIP
THWIP
GWEN!
YEAH! YOU'LL BE REAL POPULAR!
SHUT! UP!
AHHH! SMYTHE, THAT STATUE WAS AN ALICIA MASTERS! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH IT COST?
NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY.
NO MORE KID GLOVES! WHILE I STILL HAVE A CENT TO MY NAME--
--THIS IS GOING TO END!

DON'T--
--YOU--
--EVER--
--TOUCH--
--HER--
--AGAIN!
PETE...!

I FOUND THE BOOK.
SAFE COMBINATION WAS A REAL PAIN IN THE--
THANKS, DAD.
THWIP
PETE?
I THINK ENOUGH PEOPLE HAVE READ THIS.
PETER, WE ONLY WANTED IT BECAUSE--
I KNOW. THANKS FOR THE TRACER SIGNAL. I'D HAVE HATED TO MISS THIS.
AND THANKS FOR... EVERYTHING.
GWEN.
I LOVE YOU.
THEN COME HOME!


NO!
IT WAS ALL A WASTE. HE WOULDN'T TALK, HE WOULDN'T LISTEN...
...AND WE DIDN'T EVEN GET THE JOURNAL.
HONEY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER BEEN UPSET WHERE I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO SAY TO YOU.
WHAT?

THWIP.
PETER PARKER
JOURNAL
-KEEP OUT-

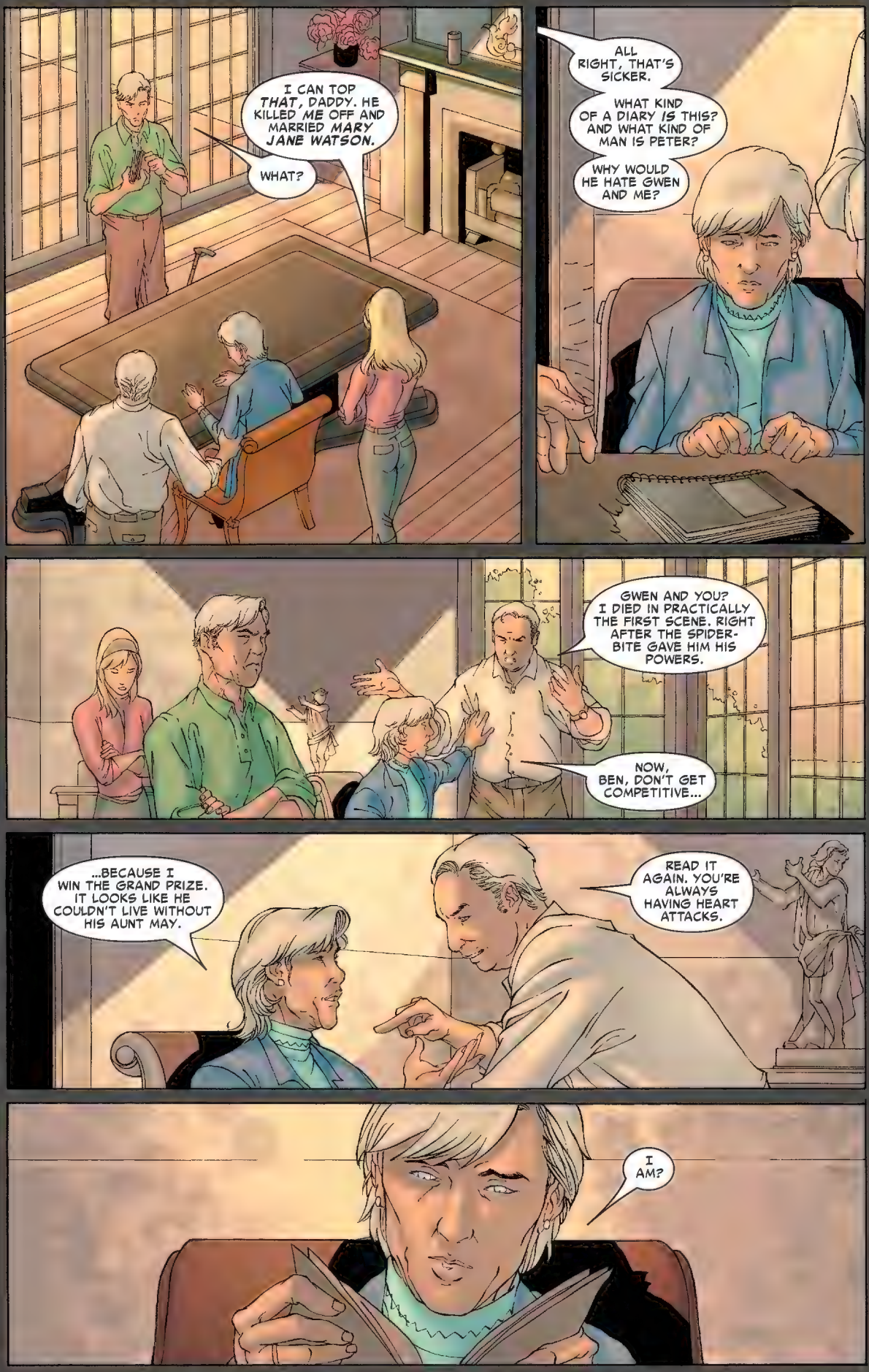
SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #5

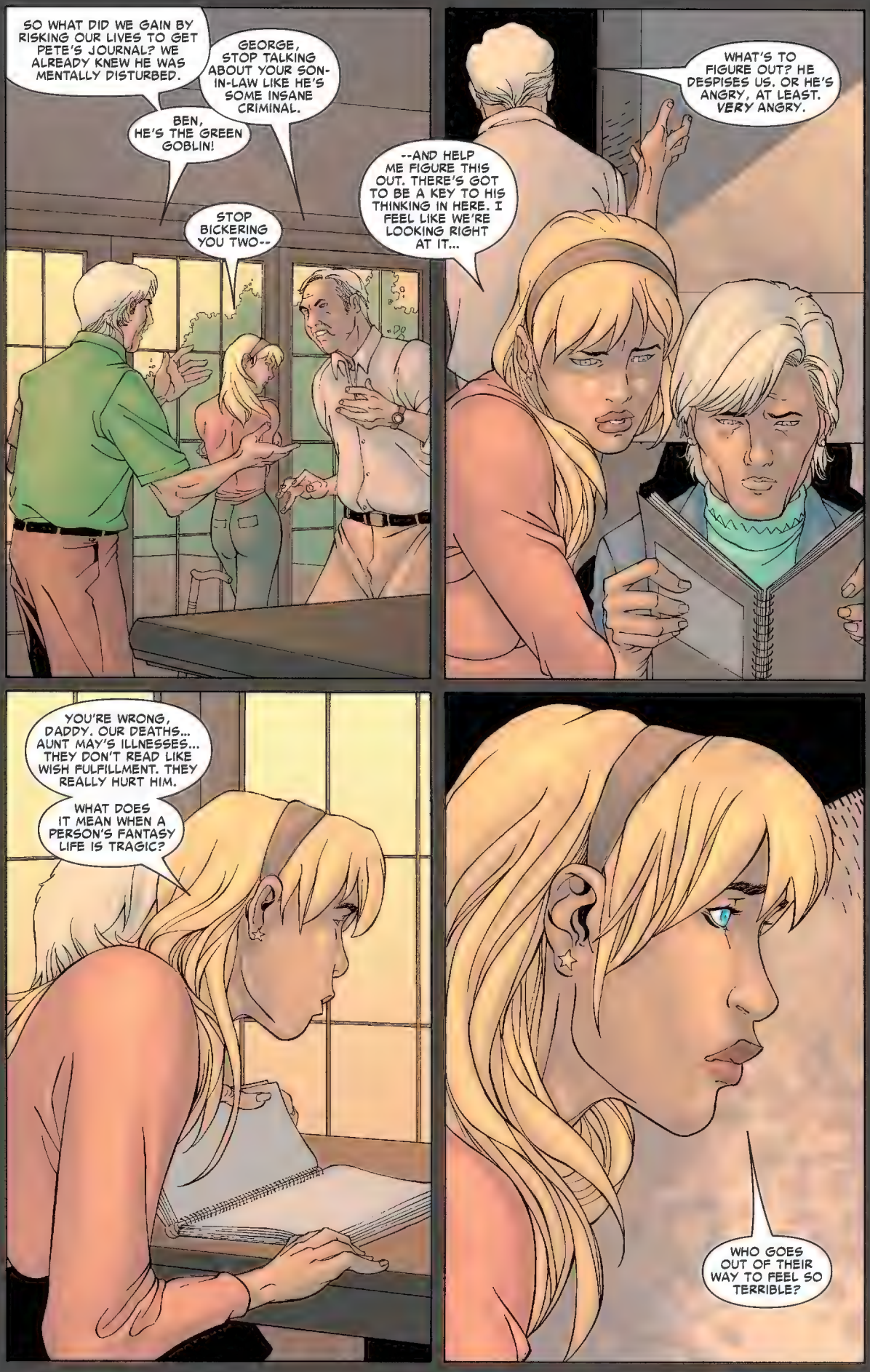
MY ARMS! THEY NO LONGER OBEY ME!
YOU TRICKED ME! THAT'S NOT ORDINARY WEBBING!
IT'S A CHEMICAL--LIKE A JAMMING DEVICE BETWEEN MY BRAIN IMPULSES--AND MY ARMS!
RIGHT, OCK! I'LL JUST KEEP BUSY SOMEHOW WHILE YOUR OWN WEAPONS BEAT THE SNOT OUT OF YOU!
HELP ME! I CAN'T HANDLE THEM! I'M DONE FOR--!
HEY! WATCH THE CHIMNEY--!
KTOK!

IT'S GOING DOWN!
BUT--IF ANYONE SHOULD BE HIT--!
LOOK OUT, SON! LOOK OUT!
PLEASE, GOD--
LET ME DO THIS!
...LET ME...
-AUUNNHH-
CAPTAIN STACY!

HE'S GOT TO BE ALIVE!
HE'S GOT TO! HE'S GOT TO!
I--I'M DONE FOR, SON--
NO! YOU'RE NOT! YOU'RE NOT!
IF I CAN GET YOU TO A DOCTOR IN TIME--!
IT WAS SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT! HE KILLED HIM--
--AND NOW HE'S TAKING HIM AWAY!
HANG ON, CAPTAIN! I'LL GET YOU THERE--!
NO...STOP... I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU...
SO LITTLE TIME...
WHAT IS IT, CAPTAIN? I'M LISTENING!
MY GWEN...

...NO ONE... TO LOOK AFTER HER NOW...
NO ONE BUT YOU, PETER.
YOU KNOW WHO I AM. YOU MUST HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN...
...BUT YOU NEVER TOLD. YOU NEVER GAVE ME AWAY.
BE GOOD TO HER, SON. BE GOOD.
SHE LOVES YOU SO VERY--
I PROMISE YOU, SIR. I WILL LOVE GWEN AND CHERISH HER FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE.
BUT WHAT IF SHE EVER LEARNS...
...THAT YOU DIED BECAUSE OF ME?
"THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE SICKEST THING I'VE EVER READ."


I CAN TOP THAT, DADDY. HE KILLED ME OFF AND MARRIED MARY JANE WATSON.
WHAT?
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S SICKER.
WHAT KIND OF A DIARY IS THIS? AND WHAT KIND OF MAN IS PETER?
WHY WOULD HE HATE GWEN AND ME?
GWEN AND YOU? I DIED IN PRACTICALLY THE FIRST SCENE. RIGHT AFTER THE SPIDER-BITE GAVE HIM HIS POWERS.
NOW, BEN, DON'T GET COMPETITIVE...
...BECAUSE I WIN THE GRAND PRIZE. IT LOOKS LIKE HE COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT HIS AUNT MAY.
READ IT AGAIN. YOU'RE ALWAYS HAVING HEART ATTACKS.
I AM?


SO WHAT DID WE GAIN BY RISKING OUR LIVES TO GET PETE'S JOURNAL? WE ALREADY KNEW HE WAS MENTALLY DISTURBED.
GEORGE, STOP TALKING ABOUT YOUR SON-IN-LAW LIKE HE'S SOME INSANE CRIMINAL.
BEN, HE'S THE GREEN GOBLIN!
STOP BICKERING YOU TWO--
--AND HELP ME FIGURE THIS OUT. THERE'S GOT TO BE A KEY TO HIS THINKING IN HERE. I FEEL LIKE WE'RE LOOKING RIGHT AT IT...
WHAT'S TO FIGURE OUT? HE DESPISES US. OR HE'S ANGRY, AT LEAST. VERY ANGRY.
YOU'RE WRONG, DADDY. OUR DEATHS... AUNT MAY'S ILLNESSES... THEY DON'T READ LIKE WISH FULFILLMENT. THEY REALLY HURT HIM.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN A PERSON'S FANTASY LIFE IS TRAGIC?
WHO GOES OUT OF THEIR WAY TO FEEL SO TERRIBLE?

SO SORRY...I'M SO SORRY...
STOP IT.
THEY'LL HEAR YOU.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I BROUGHT YOU TO A HOMELESS SHELTER. I CAN'T BELIEVE I *HAVE* TO.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT? THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
IT'S *PETER PARKER'S.*
THE MUTANTS ARE RELOCATING HUMANS ONLY BECAUSE HE *EMBARRASSED* THEM.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, MISSUS...
...YOU GOT *THAT* RIGHT.
LONG AS SPIDER-MAN'S BREATHIN', THEY'RE GONNA HAVE FUN WITH *US.*
FUN WITH *US.*
SKREEEEEEEEEE
WHAT'S *THAT*--?
I *TOLD* YOU.

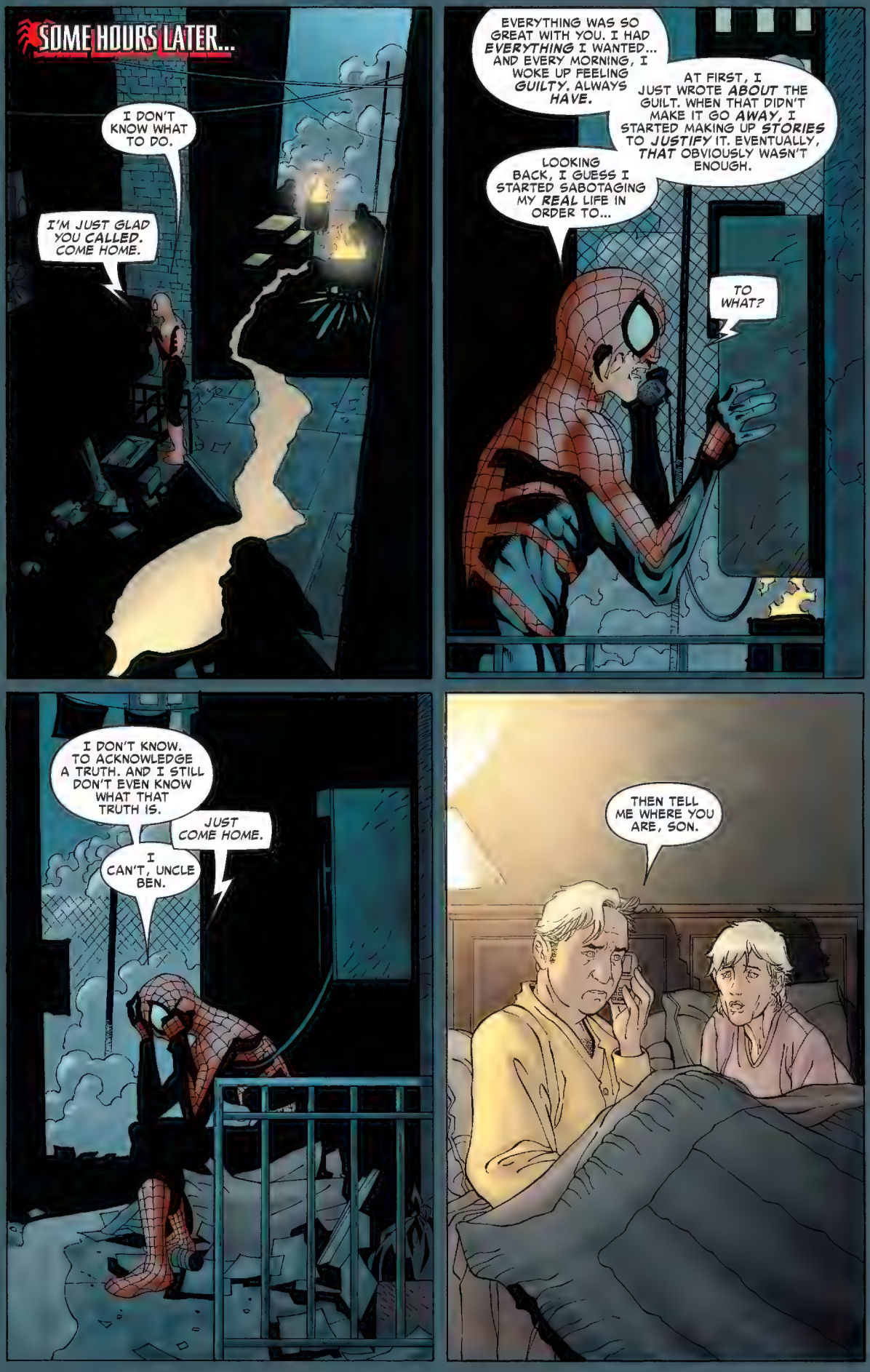
UP.
UP.
UP.
GET OUT.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
WATCH IT. THAT'S NOT HOW HOMO SAPIENS TALK TO MUTANTS.
YOU BULLDOZED MY HOUSE! NOW WE CAN'T EVEN STAY IN THIS DUMP?
EASY...
NO! HUMAN OR NOT, WE DESERVE SOME EXPLANATION...!
FINE. IN THE NAME OF THE HOUSE OF M, THE NEW YORK POLICE ARE COMMANDEERING THIS FACILITY.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TURN THE NEIGHBORHOOD INTO ONE OF YOUR GHETTOS, WE'RE GOING TO BE RIGHT HERE WATCHING YOU. NOW, GO.
P-17
AND WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO SLEEP?
SOMEPLACE ELSE.
THAT'S IT--?
SHUT!
UP!
AHHRRUUUKK!!

LET GO.
SPOK!
IF YOU WANT THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE, FINE.
BUT DON'T ABUSE THEM. I WON'T LET--
SPLURCH!
+GHAAAK+
GROSS.

DON'T.
YOU DON'T WANT TO GET INTO IT WITH ME. I DON'T HAVE A THING LEFT TO LOSE. NOT ANYMORE.
SO JUST HELP YOUR PARTNER OUT OF HERE LIKE THE HEROES YOU ARE, AND TELL THE BOSS I GOT AWAY.
COME ON.
WHAT? WHAT ARE WE DOING?
UP.

BUT WHAT ABOUT SPIDER-MAN?
HE GOT AWAY.
BUT HE'S STANDING RIGHT OVER --
SHUT UP.
THEY'LL BE RIGHT BACK, IN FORCE.
I JUST BOUGHT YOU A FEW MINUTES. SO GATHER YOUR THINGS AS FAST AS YOU CAN AND--
WHAT?

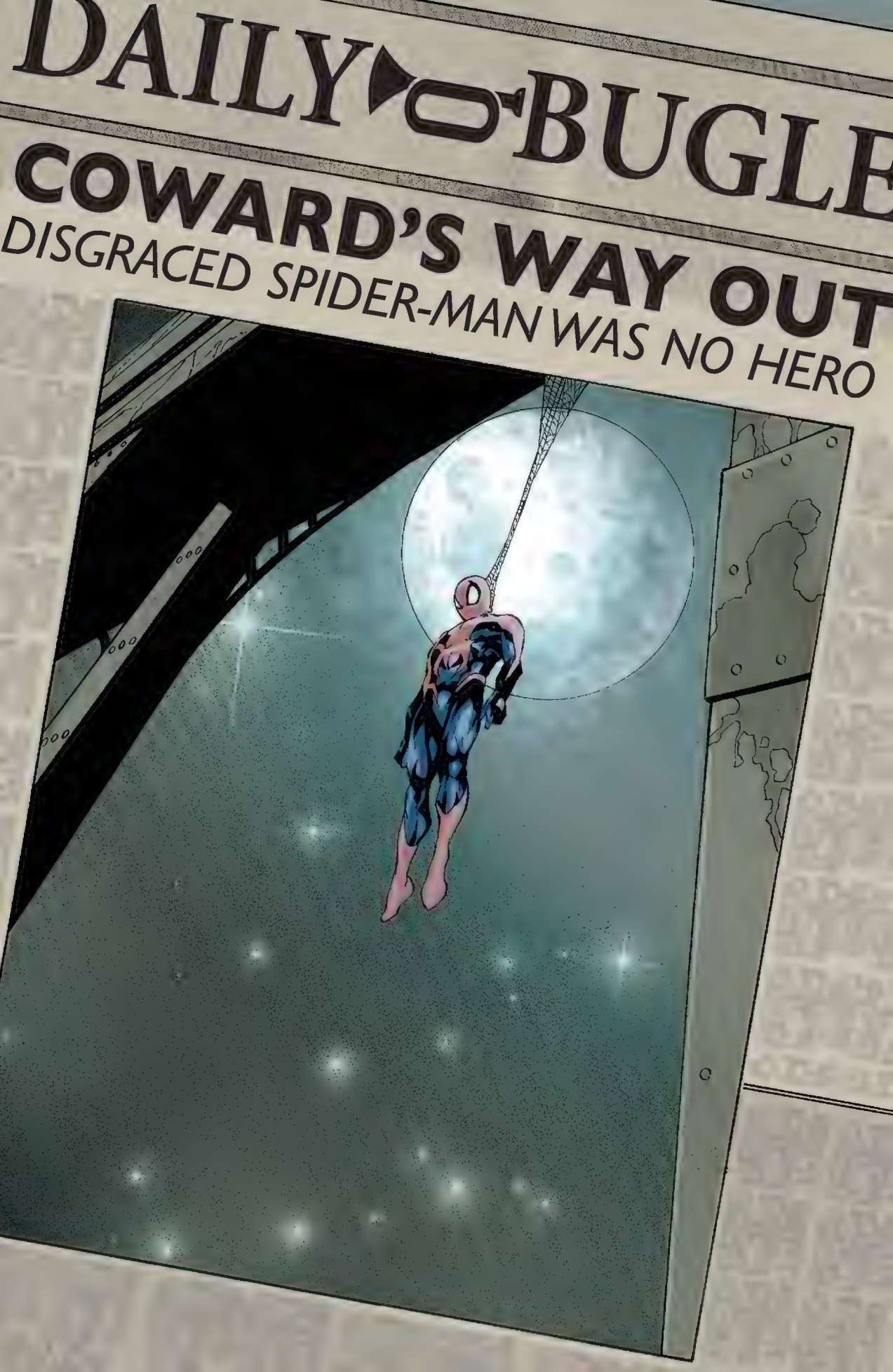
GET HIM!
COME ON! THERE'S ENOUGH OF US!
WE'LL GIVE THE COPS HIS CORPSE!
THEY'LL LEAVE US ALONE THEN!
HEY!
STOP THAT!
GO FOR HIS EYES!
PLEASE!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU!
TOO LATE FOR THAT, YOU FREAK!


SOME HOURS LATER...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU CALLED. COME HOME.
EVERYTHING WAS SO GREAT WITH YOU. I HAD EVERYTHING I WANTED... AND EVERY MORNING, I WOKE UP FEELING GUILTY. ALWAYS HAVE.
AT FIRST, I JUST WROTE ABOUT THE GUILT. WHEN THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT GO AWAY, I STARTED MAKING UP STORIES TO JUSTIFY IT. EVENTUALLY, THAT OBVIOUSLY WASN'T ENOUGH.
LOOKING BACK, I GUESS I STARTED SABOTAGING MY REAL LIFE IN ORDER TO...
TO WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW. TO ACKNOWLEDGE A TRUTH. AND I STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT TRUTH IS.
JUST COME HOME.
I CAN'T, UNCLE BEN.
THEN TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE, SON.

LOOK AT THEM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO STOP IT.
I JUST KNOW THAT I STARTED IT.

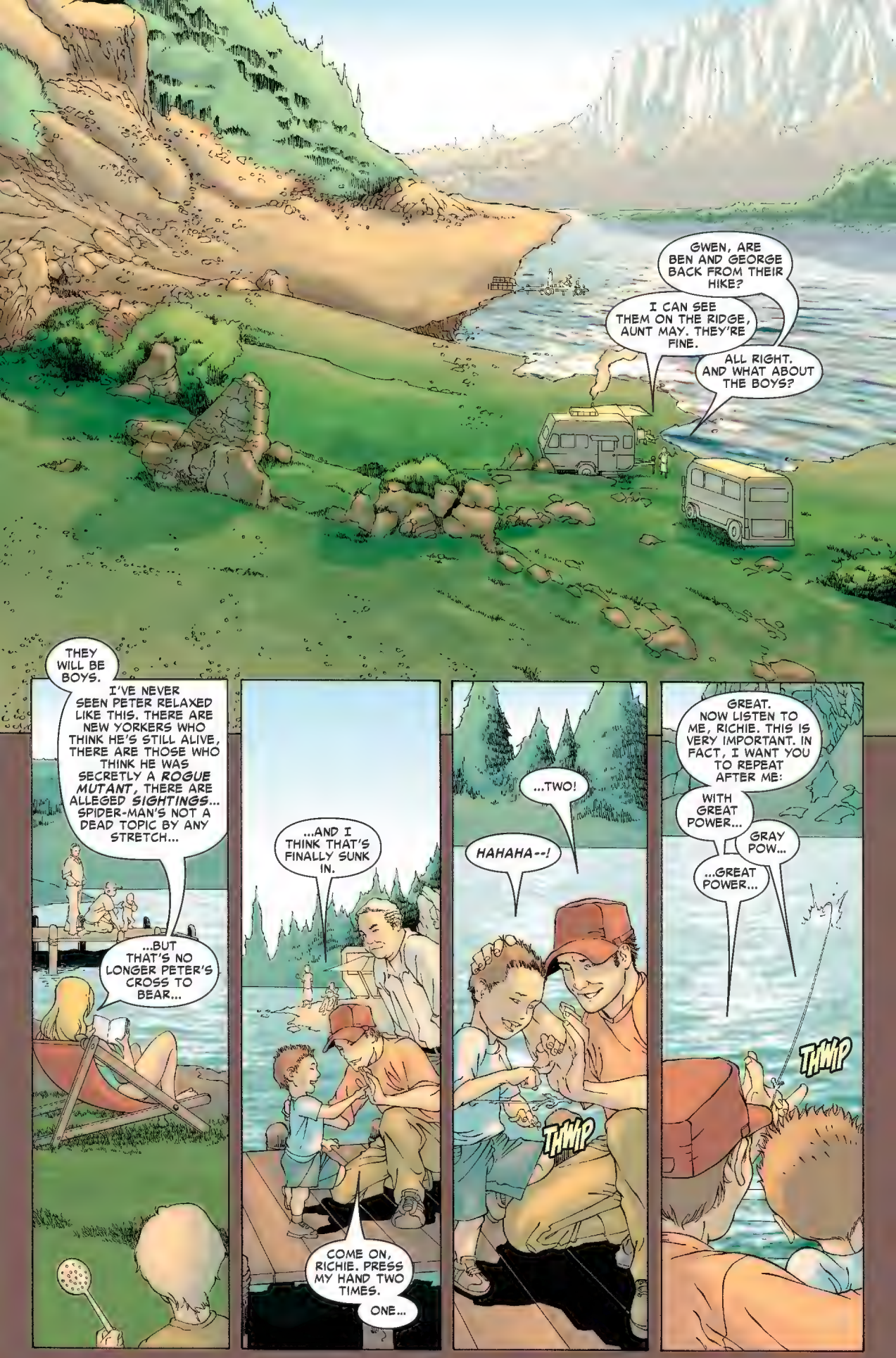
PETER, THE MUTANTS ARE OUT OF CONTROL, THAT'S TRUE ENOUGH. BUT ABUSES LIKE THIS HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR A LONG TIME.
WE WERE JUST TOO PRIVILEGED TO BE TOUCHED BY THEM.
NOW *NO* HUMAN IS.
BECAUSE OF *ME*. WHEN I WRECKED MY LIFE, I WRECKED THEIRS, TOO. AND YOURS. MY WHOLE FAMILY'S. ALL THE PEOPLE I LOVE...
...I'M SO SORRY...
SON, WE HAD IT GOOD FOR A *LONG TIME*. NO ONE'S TAKING *ANYTHING* AWAY THAT YOU DIDN'T GIVE US IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT I COULDN'T KEEP IT UP.
PETER, WITH GREAT POWER...
...COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. I KNOW.
I'LL BET I'VE REMINDED YOU OF THAT A THOUSAND TIMES. YOU KNOW WHAT MAKES ME ASHAMED?
THAT I DIDN'T LIVE UP TO IT?
NO, PETER.
I'M ASHAMED BECAUSE I NEVER SAID IT TO ANYONE ELSE.

YOU MADE US RICH AND POWERFUL IN A HOSTILE WORLD. EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON YOU, EVERY SECOND. IT WAS LIKE...
IT WAS LIKE YOU WERE THE HERO, AND WE WERE THE SUPPORTING CAST. LIKE IT NEVER MATTERED WHAT WE DID AS LONG AS YOU KEPT MAKING AN EFFORT.
NO WONDER YOU STUMBLED. WE *LET* YOU.
NOT TOO RESPONSIBLE OF US.
UNCLE BEN...IT'S OKAY.
NO, SON. I'M TELLING *YOU* IT'S OKAY. WE'RE NOT MAD AT YOU, AND WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF YOU. AND WE DON'T NEED TO BE PART OF SOME GLAMOROUS STORY.
WE JUST WANT YOU BACK.
AS LONG AS I'M AROUND, THE MUTANTS ARE GOING TO KEEP TURNING UP THE HEAT.
THEN MAYBE YOU NEED TO BE A HERO.
ONE LAST TIME.


DAILY BUGLE
COWARD'S WAY OUT
DISGRACED SPIDER-MAN WAS NO HERO

I KNEW IT. JUST ANOTHER PAMPERED CELEBRITY.
I REALLY THOUGHT HE WAS MORE THAN THAT... BUT I GUESS IT WAS ALL JUST PUBLICITY.
DON'T FEEL BAD. A LOT OF US WERE FOOLED.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. HE ALWAYS HAD GUTS. THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE TO IT.
I THROW MY WHOLE LIFE AWAY FOR HIM, AND WHAT DOES HE DO?
LOUSY WEAKLING!
I'M HONORED YOU INVITED ME TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU, JONAH.
SHUT UP, NORMAN. JUST HAVE A DRINK WITH ME AND DON'T SAY ANYTHING.
WHY, J. JONAH JAMESON! ARE THOSE TEARS?
I SAID SHUT UP!

THE HOUSE OF M
GENOSHA
DAILY BUGLE
COWARD'S WAY OUT
If you want me to stay dead, ease up on the humans.


GWEN, ARE BEN AND GEORGE BACK FROM THEIR HIKE?
I CAN SEE THEM ON THE RIDGE, AUNT MAY. THEY'RE FINE.
ALL RIGHT. AND WHAT ABOUT THE BOYS?
THEY WILL BE BOYS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN PETER RELAXED LIKE THIS. THERE ARE NEW YORKERS WHO THINK HE'S STILL ALIVE, THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK HE WAS SECRETLY A ROGUE MUTANT, THERE ARE ALLEGED SIGHTINGS... SPIDER-MAN'S NOT A DEAD TOPIC BY ANY STRETCH...
...BUT THAT'S NO LONGER PETER'S CROSS TO BEAR...
...AND I THINK THAT'S FINALLY SUNK IN.
COME ON, RICHIE. PRESS MY HAND TWO TIMES.
ONE...
...TWO!
HAHAHA--!
THWIP
GREAT. NOW LISTEN TO ME, RICHIE. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. IN FACT, I WANT YOU TO REPEAT AFTER ME:
WITH GREAT POWER...
GRAY POW...
...GREAT POWER...
THWIP

...COMES GREAT FISH!

HOUSE OF M PROLOGUE PAGE FROM *NEW THUNDERBOLTS #10*

NEW THUNDERBOLTS #11

Days ago, the Kree Exploratory Armada arrived on Earth to renew the longstanding alliance between the worlds, ties forged after the sacrifice made by Captain Mar-Vell, the Kree hero who fought alongside Magneto and Earth's heroes in the Kree/Skrull Wars.

Part of the delegation is Mar-Vell's son, Private Genis-Vell, who is making his first visit to Earth and facing the burdens of expectation borne by all children of great heroes.

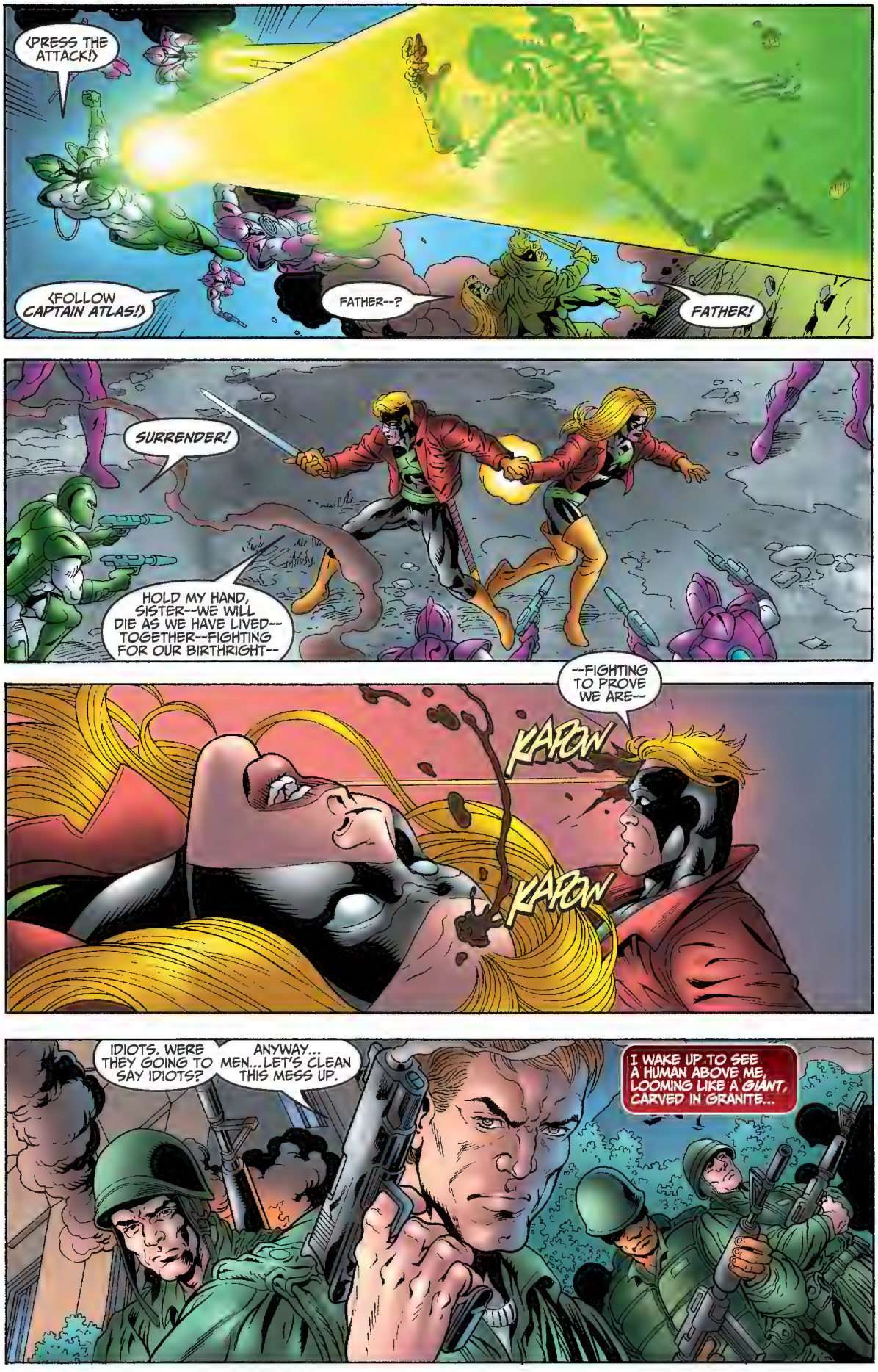
Meanwhile, in an effort to show their support, the Kree have helped Captain Marvel track down the Thunderbolts, outlaw super-villains who have come to call themselves "freedom fighters against the genetic tyranny of the House of Magnus."

THE VALHALLA MOUNTAIN RESEARCH FACILITY, COLORADO.
THE INTERDICTION UNIT COMES DOWN IN TIGHT FORMATION. RENOWNED THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY FOR THEIR FIGHTING SKILLS, IT IS AN HONOR TO BE A PART OF THIS UNIT.
THOUGH MANY HAVE QUESTIONED IF IT'S AN HONOR I *DESERVE*, I STRIVE TO DO THE BEST I CAN.
IT'S HARD ENOUGH BEING *PRIVATE GENIS-VELL*, BUT WHEN I SEE *HER* IN ACTION, MY INSECURITIES JUST GET WORSE...

CAROL DANVERS, THE EARTH WOMAN WHO GAINED SUPER POWERS FROM LONG-HIDDEN KREE MACHINERY
WHO GAINED POWERS SAVING MY FATHER'S LIFE AND DEFEATING THE RENEGADE KREE COLONEL, YON-ROGG.
WHO WENT ON TO BECOME CAPTAIN MARVEL, THIS WORLD'S GREATEST HERO...
DR. CHEN-- WHY HAVE YOU JOINED STRUCKER'S CAUSE? WHY ARE YOU WASTING ALL THE POTENTIAL YOU HAVE AS THE RADIOACTIVE MAN?
YOU SPEAK OF POTENTIAL? WHAT ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF THE HUMAN RACE-- A SPECIES WHOSE STATUS QUO WILL DOOM IT TO EXTINCTION!
YOU ARE A TRAITOR TO YOUR KIND, WOMAN!
I WILL CRUSH YOU WITH MY SATAN'S CLAW AS EASILY AS I BRUSH ASIDE THESE ALIEN MAGGOTS!
IT IS ONLY THEIR ZEAL THAT MAKES THEM AN ACTUAL THREAT.
THEIR PLANET IS ON AN EVOLUTIONARY CUSP-- BUT RATHER THAN EMBRACE IT, SOME SEGMENTS OF THE HUMAN RACE SEEM WILLING TO RISK PLANETARY ANNIHILATION OVER OBSOLESCENCE.
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM, ANDREAS!
KEEP FIGHTING, SISTER-- WE CAN'T LET OUR FATHER DOWN!
THESE ARE THE CHILDREN OF BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER--
--A SUPREMACIST WHOSE ORIGINAL VISION OF ARYAN SUPERIORITY--
--HAS BEEN REFOCUSED BY THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN SURVIVAL.
BUT THESE TWO--ANDREA AND ANDREAS-- ARE MUTANTS--FIGHTING FOR THEIR FATHER AGAINST THEIR OWN KIND...?
I COULD TAKE THEM BOTH DOWN-- I HESITATE--WHY--?
WRONG MOVE, ALIEN...

...ONE SECOND IS ALL YOU GET WHEN YOU'RE FACING AN OPPONENT WHO CAN CUT TIME APART!
HIS NAME IS FLASHBACK. HE CAN PULL ADDITIONAL VERSIONS OF HIMSELF FROM THE TIMESTREAM.
AS WE SPIRAL, I FEEL TWO HANDS ON ME, THEN FOUR, THEN EIGHT--
--BUT THROUGH THE PUMMELING--
--BEYOND THE PAIN (OR EVEN THE EMBARRASSMENT)--
--I FEEL SOMETHING ELSE...
...I FEEL...TIME AND SPACE... I DON'T JUST SEE IT, I FEEL IT-- WITH A TANGIBLE SMELL AND TASTE--
--AND I SEE A GLIMPSE OF SOMEWHERE ELSE... SOMEWHEN ELSE--
WHAT'S GOING ON--? MY POWERS DON'T WORK THIS WAY--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?!
FLASHBACK IS A RIVER OF TIME AND I AM A ROCK LODGED IN HIS CURRENT.
RIPPLES FLOW AROUND ME, WASHING OVER ME--RIPPLES OF HIS FLESH AND SOUL-- AS HE DISSIPATES INTO NOTHINGNESS (AND EVERYTHING)--
--THEN I SEE ANOTHER WORLD--
--SO DIFFERENT THAN WHAT I KNOW-- BUT IT FEELS SO RIGHT--

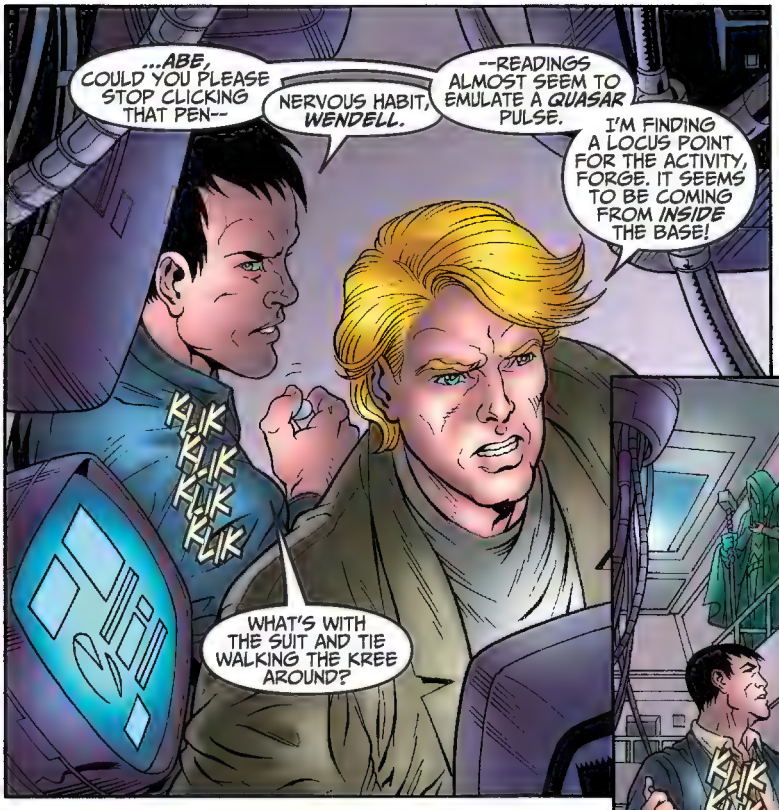
I SEE THE WORLD AS IT SHOULD BE. (AS IT WILL BE AGAIN?)
AND WORST OF ALL (BEST OF ALL?) I SEE MYSELF IN IT. I SEE MYSELF AS SOMEONE POWERFUL... SOMEONE IMPORTANT...
...SOMEONE WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE WILL DETERMINE THE FATE OF A UNIVERSE!
I SCREAM FROM THE ONSLAUGHT--THE SURGE-- OF...COSMIC AWARENESS...
...BUT MORE--THE OVERWHELMING SENSE OF DREAD--THAT IN THIS VISION, I WAS NOT SAVING THE UNIVERSE...
...I WAS DESTROYING IT...
GENIS?! WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE DID FLASHBACK GO?


⟨PRESS THE ATTACK!⟩
⟨FOLLOW CAPTAIN ATLAS!⟩
FATHER--?
FATHER!
SURRENDER!
HOLD MY HAND, SISTER--WE WILL DIE AS WE HAVE LIVED--TOGETHER--FIGHTING FOR OUR BIRTHRIGHT--
--FIGHTING TO PROVE WE ARE--
KAPOW
KAPOW
IDIOTS. WERE THEY GOING TO SAY IDIOTS?
ANYWAY... MEN...LET'S CLEAN THIS MESS UP.
I WAKE UP TO SEE A HUMAN ABOVE ME, LOOMING LIKE A GIANT, CARVED IN GRANITE...

MAJOR ERIK JOSTEN, LEADER OF THE NEAR-MYTHICAL HUMAN FIGHTING FORCE, THE HOWLING COMMANDOS.
IN THE TEN MINUTES THAT IT TAKES KREE MEDICS TO EXAMINE ME, JOSTEN AND CAPTAIN MARVEL HAVE CLEANED THE BATTLEFIELD.
WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THAT KREE PRIVATE?
DON'T KNOW YET. SOMETHING HAPPENED WHEN FLASHBACK ATTACKED HIM.
YOU KNOW, HE'S MAR-VELL'S SON.
YEAH, HE'S JUST THE NIFTIEST. IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, CAROL--
"--MAR-VELL NEVER WOULD'VE LET HIMSELF GET AMBUSHED LIKE THAT..."
I HEAR HIS DISDAIN. I SHOULD BE USED TO IT, BUT NOW...
...IT'S DIFFERENT--I ACTUALLY FEEL IT--LIKE AN EMOTIONAL PUNCH.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?
UNKNOWN PHOTONIC ENERGIES COURSE THROUGH HIS BODY...
THEY TALK. I BARELY HEAR THEIR WORDS.
I DON'T NEED THEM TO TELL ME SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO ME.
WHAT DID I REALLY SEE?
HOW COULD THAT ONE STRANGE VISION CHANGE THE WAY I SEE EVERYTHING?
WHY DOES NONE OF THIS SEEM REAL TO ME NOW?
--CLAIMED HE WAS WITH THE HUMAN UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE.
NO WAY!
STRUCKER DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE H.U.R. HE WAS JUST A TERRORIST.
SOME MIGHT THINK IT'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN A TERRORIST AND A FREEDOM FIGHTER, MAJOR.
DON'T LET ANYONE HEAR YOU SAY THAT, CAROL.
I'M JUST TRYING TO BE OBJECTIVE, ERIK.

IN SO MANY WAYS, OUR WORLD'S CHANGED FOR THE BETTER IN THE LAST FEW DECADES--
--BUT IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO DENY THAT BASELINE HUMANS HAVE A JUSTIFIED FEAR OF BECOMING EXTINCT.
SO WHAT'S THE ANSWER?
I DON'T KNOW. WE JUST KEEP FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT, I GUESS.
YEAH... BUT WHO DEFINES THAT...?
SHE LEAVES WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE.
I DON'T THINK SHE'S COMFORTABLE AROUND ME.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE I REMIND HER OF MY FATHER...
...OR BECAUSE I DON'T.
ALL THE RUMORS THAT HAD SWIRLED AROUND THEM...
...MY FATHER TOLD MY MOTHER NOTHING HAD HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM.
BUT I THINK ABOUT IT, AND I FEEL MYSELF IN THAT MOMENT--IN THEIR MOMENT--
--I FEEL THEIR LIPS PRESSING TOGETHER, HIS PROTESTATIONS--
--HER LONGING AS HE FLEW AWAY--
--A PASSION NEARLY CONSUMMATED, CLINGING TO HER VERY BEING LIKE THICK TAR...
IT HAPPENED YEARS AGO, BUT HER TASTE IS ON MY LIPS, HIS LONGING IN MY GUT...
...HOW CAN I SEEM TO KNOW EVERYTHING...REACH OUT TO HEAR THE THOUGHTS OF EVERYONE AROUND ME--CONTROL SO MUCH POWER--
--AND STILL HAVE NO CONTROL OVER MY OWN LIFE?
"INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY" SEEMS EXCESSIVELY LENIENT.
THERE ARE WAYS OF... MANIPULATING THAT, JUDGE ADVOCATE RONAN.
MP

MISTUH KILLGRAVE-- PASS, PLEASE...
TETRAGENIC
LAB
HERE YOU ARE, SUNDER.
THANK-- YOU.
THIS IS A COLLECTION OF YOUR GREATEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS?
JUST A FEW OF THEM...
THE HUMAN, ZEBEDIAH KILLGRAVE, IS SOME KIND OF POLITICIAN CALLED A LOBBYIST.
HE SERVES AS A PUPPET, PULLED BETWEEN THE WHIMS OF GOVERNMENTS AND CORPORATIONS, HUMANS AND MUTANTS.
HIS WORDS WERE MEANT TO IMPRESS RONAN, PERHAPS TO MAKE THE TERRANS SEEM TO BE ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH US.
AS USUAL, RONAN RESERVED JUDGMENT...
DR. VAUGHN AND MR. JENKINS, WE'VE BEEN REGISTERING ABSURD AMOUNTS OF TETRASPATIAL ENERGIES OVER THE LAST FIFTEEN MINUTES.
ARE THE SENSORS WORKING PROPERLY?
KLIK KLIK
THEY APPEAR TO BE, FORGE.
PHOTONIC SURGES ARE BEING SCANNED NOW.
THIS NEW ENERGY SIGNAL DOES SEEM ODD--PHOTONIC ENERGY SHOULD BE AMBIENT, NOT ISOLATED INTO SUCH A SELF-CONTAINED AREA...
KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK

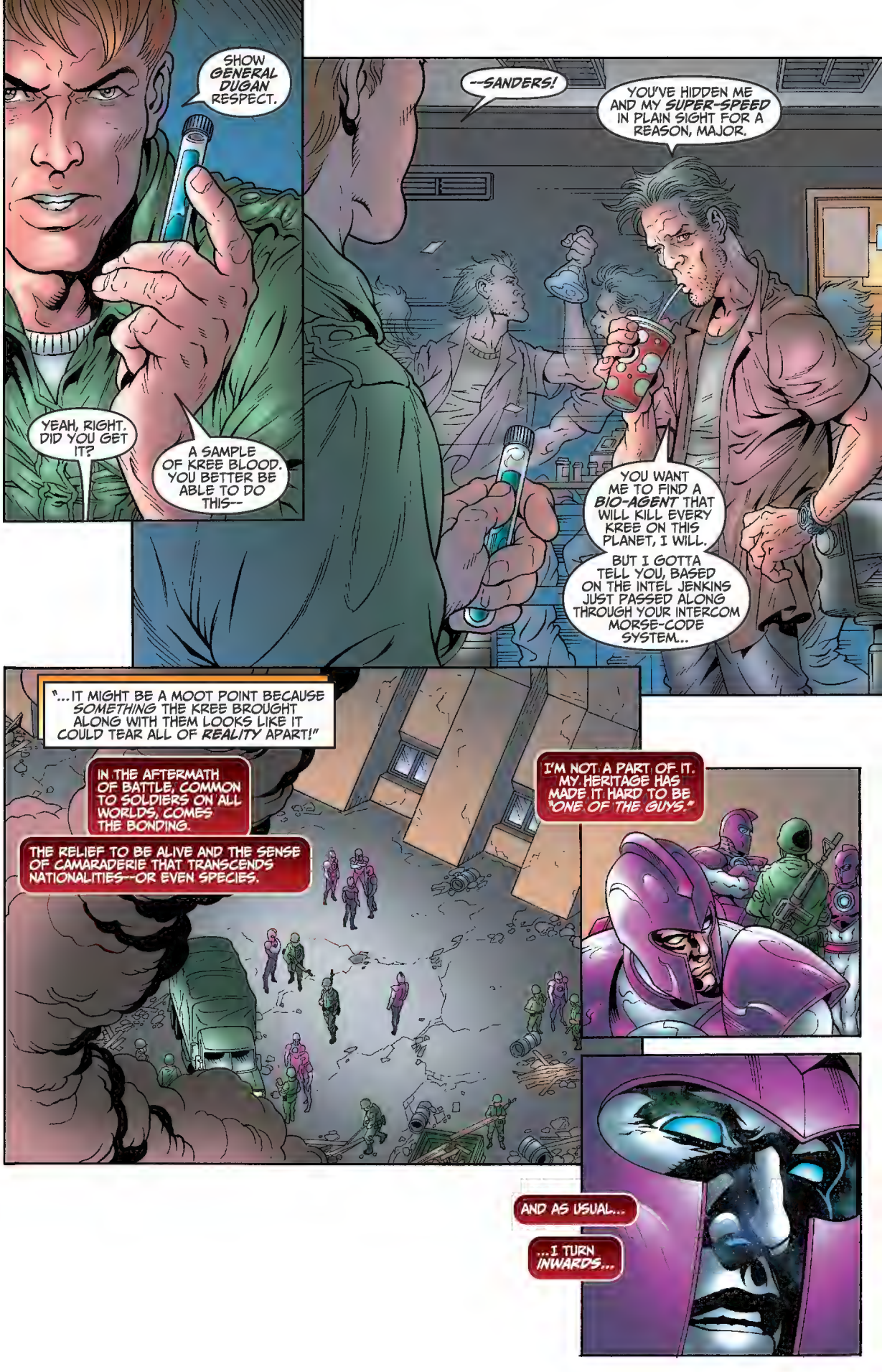

...ABE, COULD YOU PLEASE STOP CLICKING THAT PEN--
NERVOUS HABIT, WENDELL.
--READINGS ALMOST SEEM TO EMULATE A QUASAR PULSE.
I'M FINDING A LOCUS POINT FOR THE ACTIVITY, FORGE. IT SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM INSIDE THE BASE!
KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK
WHAT'S WITH THE SUIT AND TIE WALKING THE KREE AROUND?

WORD IS WE'RE GOING TO SIGN A NEW TREATY WITH THE KREE TO INCLUDE A MILITARY ALLIANCE AGAINST THE SHI'AR EMPIRE.
FROM WHAT I HEAR, THE KREE NEED US...
KLIK KLIK KLIK

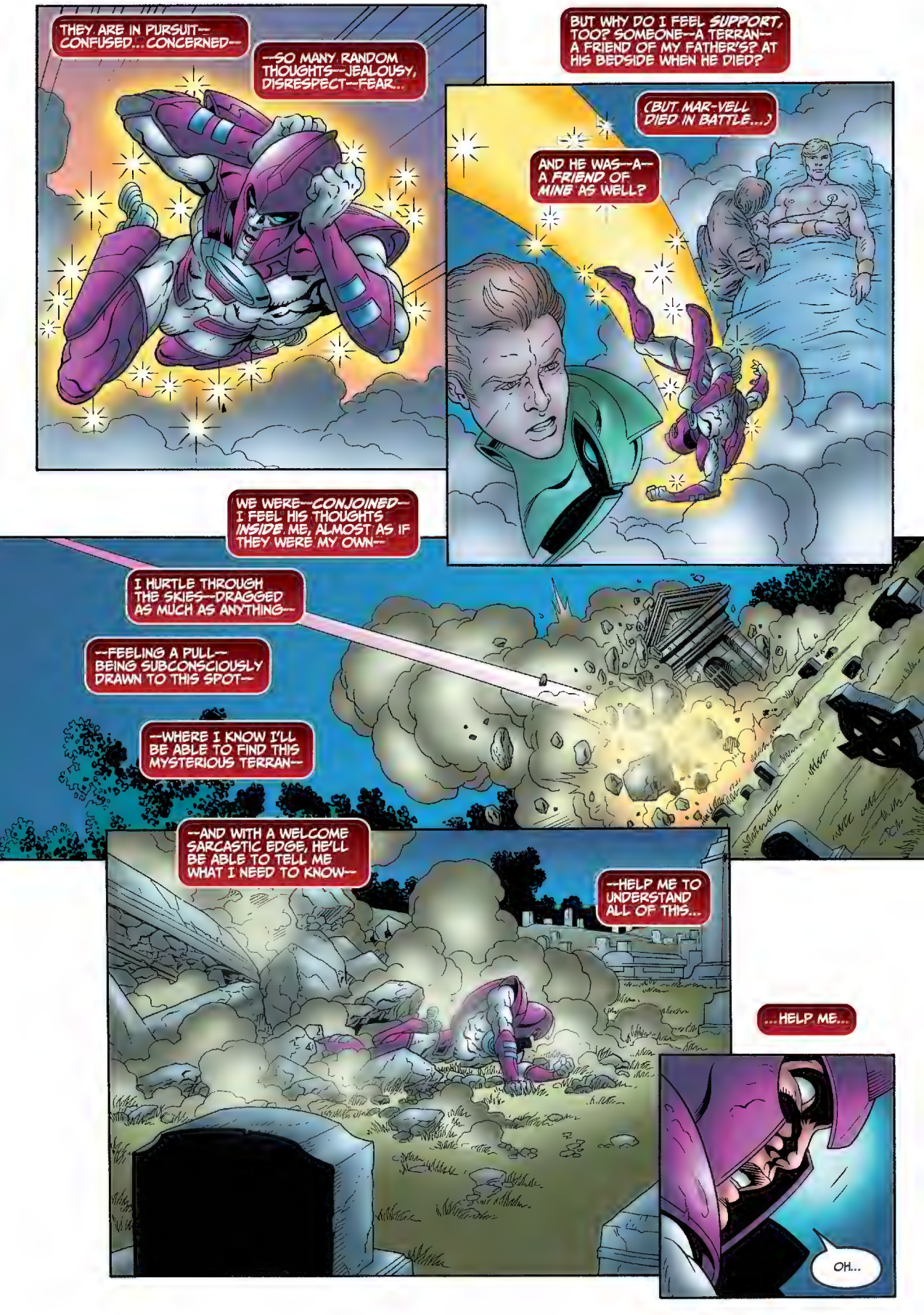
"...BECAUSE THE SHI'AR HAVE BEEN ADVANCING INTO THEIR TERRITORY FOR YEARS."
WE CAN'T SCUTTLE THE DELEGATION'S MEETIN' WITH FORGE, ERIK.
IT WOULD DRAW TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO US.
I KNOW, DUM DUM, BUT WE CAN'T LET THE MUTANTS DO THIS--IT'LL CRUSH ANY HOPE WE HAVE OF--
QUIET DOWN, SON.
RESTRI
ARE

AT EASE, MEN.
KLIK KLIK KLIK
I'VE TAUGHT YOU PATIENCE, HAVEN'T I?

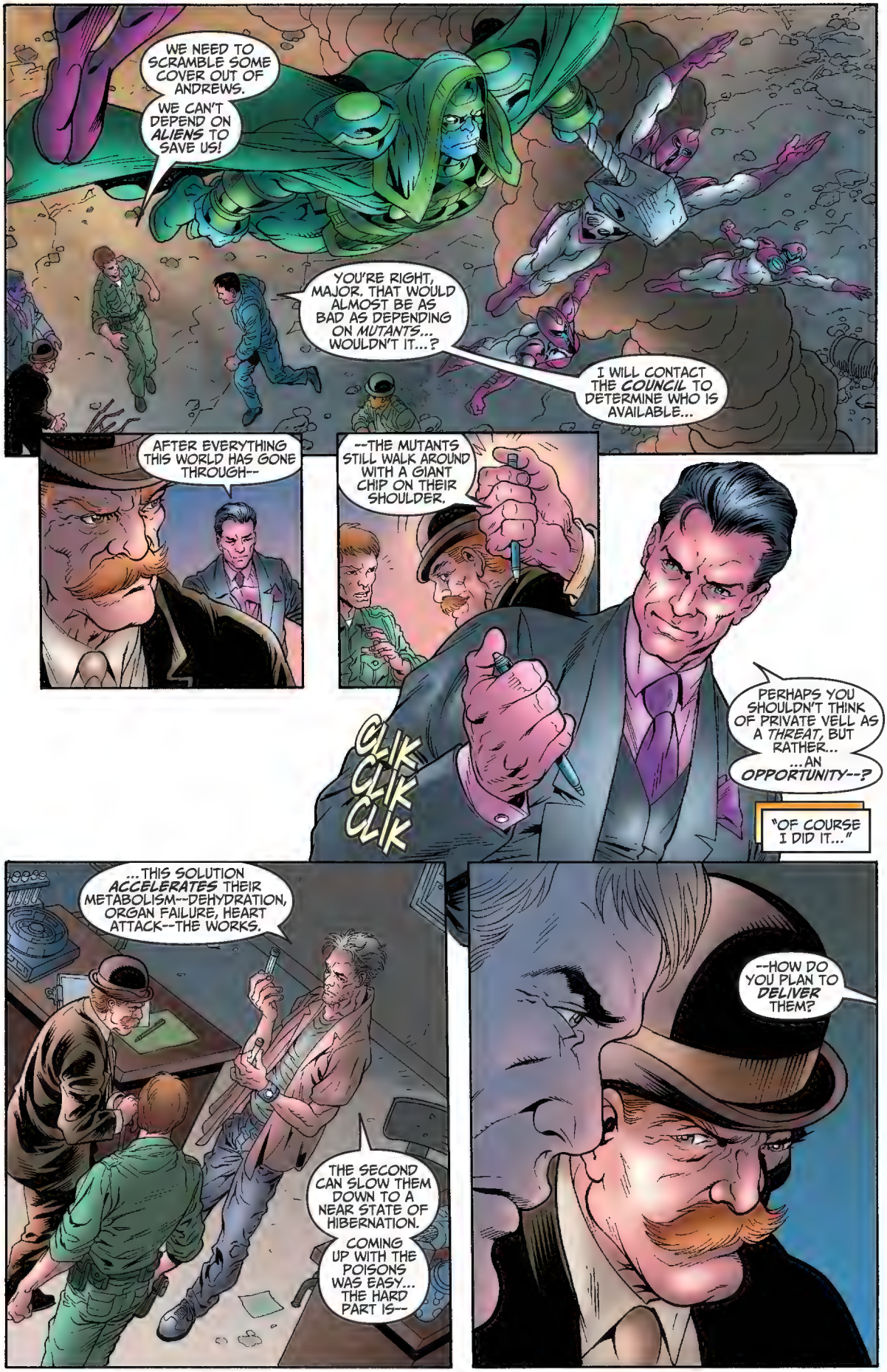
YEAH, AND COMING FROM YOU, IT WAS PRETTY IRONIC.
KLIK KLIK
STOP WITH THE DAMNED PENS! WE'RE SECURE IN HERE.


SHOW GENERAL DUGAN RESPECT.
YEAH, RIGHT. DID YOU GET IT?
A SAMPLE OF KREE BLOOD. YOU BETTER BE ABLE TO DO THIS--
--SANDERS!
YOU'VE HIDDEN ME AND MY SUPER-SPEED IN PLAIN SIGHT FOR A REASON, MAJOR.
YOU WANT ME TO FIND A BIO-AGENT THAT WILL KILL EVERY KREE ON THIS PLANET, I WILL.
BUT I GOTTA TELL YOU, BASED ON THE INTEL JENKINS JUST PASSED ALONG THROUGH YOUR INTERCOM MORSE-CODE SYSTEM...
"...IT MIGHT BE A MOOT POINT BECAUSE SOMETHING THE KREE BROUGHT ALONG WITH THEM LOOKS LIKE IT COULD TEAR ALL OF REALITY APART!"
IN THE AFTERMATH OF BATTLE, COMMON TO SOLDIERS ON ALL WORLDS, COMES THE BONDING.
THE RELIEF TO BE ALIVE AND THE SENSE OF CAMARADERIE THAT TRANSCENDS NATIONALITIES--OR EVEN SPECIES.
I'M NOT A PART OF IT. MY HERITAGE HAS MADE IT HARD TO BE "ONE OF THE GUYS."
AND AS USUAL...
...I TURN INWARDS...

...AND ONCE AGAIN I SEE...
...A STRANGE COMBINATION OF WHAT WAS... WHAT IS... AND WHAT MIGHT BE?
MY FATHER--WHEN HE WAS ON EARTH--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME!
--WHEN HE FOUND THE NEGA-BANDS, BUT HE NEVER WORE THAT UNIFORM...
THAT IS PRIVATE VELL--BUT WHAT IS THAT LIGHT TRAIL BEHIND HIM?
...AND HIS HAIR CHANGING TO BLOND?--AND THAT'S ME--CARRYING ON SOME KIND OF--LEGACY--BUT I NEVER DID THAT!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THE ENERGY READINGS WE DETECTED ARE COMING FROM HIM!
HE'S NOT USING HIS PROPULSION BOOTS TO FLY--SOMEHOW, HE'S FOLDING PHOTONS AROUND HIM--
--FOLDING SPACE--TO PROPEL HIMSELF!
(FOLLOW HIM!)


THEY ARE IN PURSUIT--CONFUSED...CONCERNED--
--SO MANY RANDOM THOUGHTS--JEALOUSY, DISRESPECT--FEAR..
BUT WHY DO I FEEL SUPPORT, TOO? SOMEONE--A TERRAN--A FRIEND OF MY FATHER'S? AT HIS BEDSIDE WHEN HE DIED?
(BUT MAR-VELL DIED IN BATTLE...)
AND HE WAS--A--A FRIEND OF MINE AS WELL?
WE WERE--CONJOINED--I FEEL HIS THOUGHTS INSIDE ME, ALMOST AS IF THEY WERE MY OWN--
I HURTLE THROUGH THE SKIES--DRAGGED AS MUCH AS ANYTHING--
--FEELING A PULL--BEING SUBCONSCIOUSLY DRAWN TO THIS SPOT--
--WHERE I KNOW I'LL BE ABLE TO FIND THIS MYSTERIOUS TERRAN--
--AND WITH A WELCOME SARCASTIC EDGE, HE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW--
--HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND ALL OF THIS...
...HELP ME...
OH...

RICHARD [RICK] JONES
HE DIED TOO YOUNG
IN A TRAGIC ACC NT
RICK...
WHO WERE YOU?
WHY DOES THIS ALL FEEL SO WRONG?!
"WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?"
IT FELT LIKE EVERYTHIN' JUST-- STOPPED!
I'M WORKING ON IT, GENERAL DUGAN.
IT SEEMS AS IF, FOR ONE SECOND, EVERYTHING... COLLAPSED--AND-- EXPANDED--LIKE AN ACCORDION!
NOT EVEN MAGNUS IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO THAT!
IT WAS MY PRIVATE.
ACCORDING TO OUR HEALER'S EXAMINATION, PRIVATE VELL HAS BECOME A KIND OF...SPATIAL CONDUIT.
WE MUST FIND HIM SOON.
OR?
OR ELSE THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE MIGHT DISAPPEAR IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!


WE NEED TO SCRAMBLE SOME COVER OUT OF ANDREWS.
WE CAN'T DEPEND ON *ALIENS* TO SAVE US!
YOU'RE RIGHT, MAJOR. THAT WOULD ALMOST BE AS BAD AS DEPENDING ON *MUTANTS*... WOULDN'T IT...?
I WILL CONTACT THE *COUNCIL* TO DETERMINE WHO IS AVAILABLE...
AFTER EVERYTHING THIS WORLD HAS GONE THROUGH--
--THE MUTANTS STILL WALK AROUND WITH A GIANT CHIP ON THEIR SHOULDER.
CLIK CLIK CLIK
PERHAPS YOU SHOULDN'T THINK OF PRIVATE VELL AS A *THREAT*, BUT RATHER... ...AN *OPPORTUNITY*--?
"OF COURSE I DID IT..."
...THIS SOLUTION *ACCELERATES* THEIR METABOLISM--DEHYDRATION, ORGAN FAILURE, HEART ATTACK--THE WORKS.
THE SECOND CAN SLOW THEM DOWN TO A NEAR STATE OF HIBERNATION.
COMING UP WITH THE POISONS WAS EASY... THE HARD PART IS--
--HOW DO YOU PLAN TO *DELIVER* THEM?

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN TESTED YET, MAJOR!
I STILL HAVE SO MUCH WORK TO DO ON THE *CYBERNETIC INTERFACES*--
--REPAIRS ON ITS GYROSCOPES-- YOU COULD FLY IT INTO A MOUNTAIN.
ABE... IF IT WORKS, I'LL BE ABLE TO FLY IT *THROUGH* A MOUNTAIN...
I'M DOING A REMOTE REBOOT-- IT'S A *DIRTY* UPLOAD, MAJOR--
--I WASN'T READY--I DIDN'T THINK ANY OF US WERE READY FOR TIPPING OUR HAND ON *THIS* KIND OF SCALE...
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, ABE.
THE ONLY WAY FOR THE HUMAN RACE TO SURVIVE...
"...IS TO START FIGHTING BACK!"
THEY COME. MUTANTS, HUMANS AND KREE COMBINED.
AS ALWAYS, *MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION* BRINGS ALL RACES TOGETHER.

MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
THEY COME TO DESTROY ME.
FUNNY... SINCE I KNOW EVERYTHING.
<PRIVATE VELL-- LET US HELP YOU!>
<YOU ARE BISECTING TIME AND SPACE FOR FIVE HUNDRED KILOMETERS AROUND YOU!>
I CAN'T STOP IT...
OUR WORLD-- EVERYTHING WE KNOW--IT'S ALL SO WRONG...
EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING IS TRYING TO TURN IT BACK TO THE WAY IT SHOULD BE!
I--I'M SORRY--

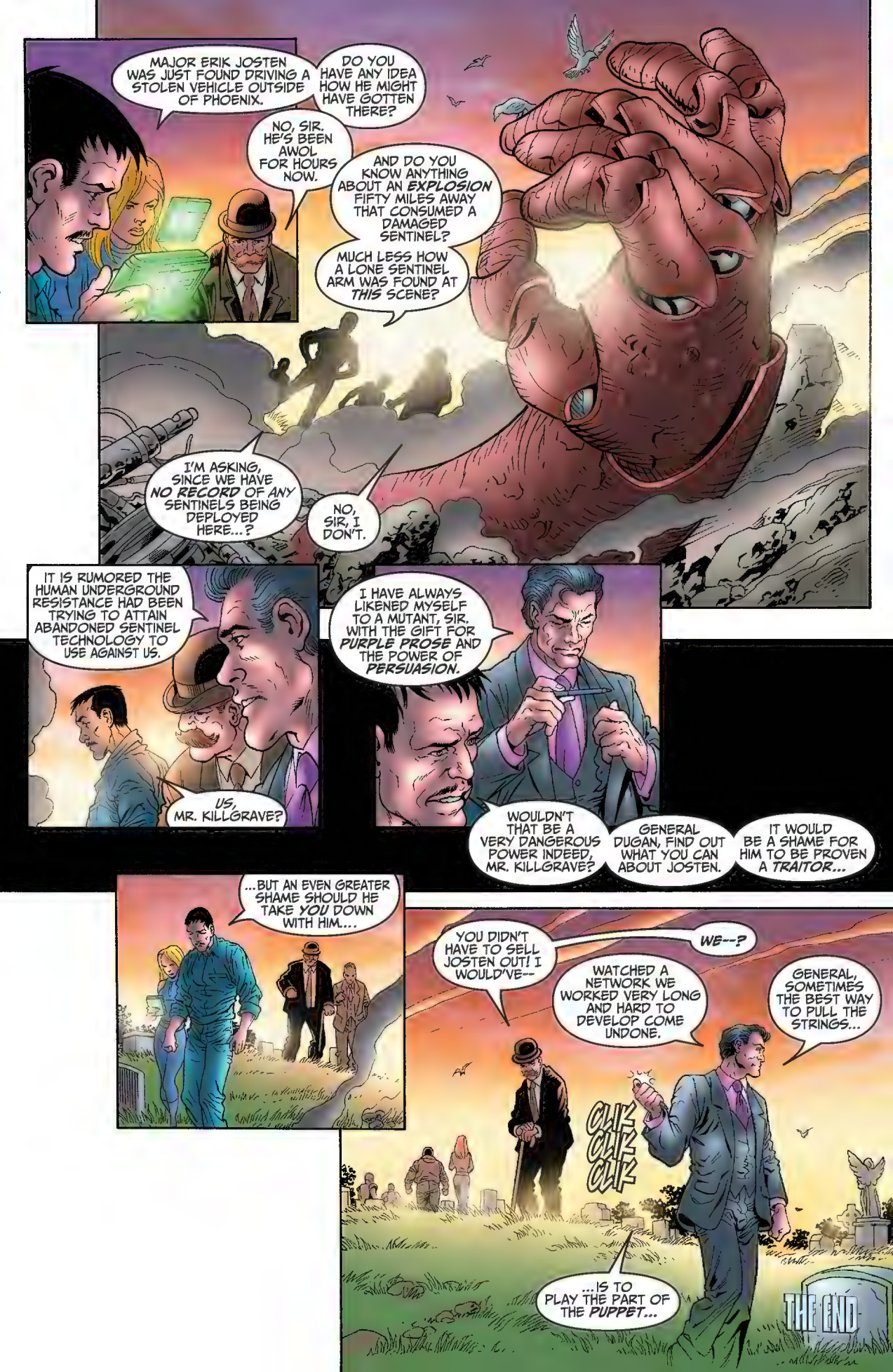
RICK-- TALK TO ME-- IF THIS IS WRONG-- WHY... WHY DOES IT FEEL RIGHT?
SHOULD THIS HAVE BEEN MY LIFE?
WHAT IF THIS REALITY IS WORSE FOR THE PLANET EARTH...
...BUT BETTER FOR ME--?
A COMMON ENEMY MAKES FOR STRANGE ALLIES, INDEED. EVEN THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO USE ME TO THEIR OWN END...
FWADOOM
YEARS AGO, THE HUMANS USED MECHANICAL BLOODHOUNDS IN THEIR PURSUIT OF MUTANTS.
MAGNETO STOPPED THEM AND SAVED THE WORLD, CHANGING THE EVOLUTIONARY COURSE OF THIS PLANET.
THE HUMAN REBELLION HAD FOUND AND SECRETED THE PROTOTYPE OF AN ATLAS-CLASS SENTINEL MUTANT-HUNTER.
THE IRONIES OF IT ALL BECOME ALMOST... AMUSING.
PRIVATE VELL-- THE ONLY HOPE YOU HAVE OF SAVING YOUR PEOPLE IS TO HELP THE HUMAN UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE!
ALMOST...

YOUR PLANS ARE HOPELESS!
YOU WERE GOING TO KILL THE KREE TO INITIATE AN ALLIANCE WITH THE SHI'AR--SO THAT THEY WOULD COME TO ERADICATE ALL MUTANTS FOR YOU!
BUT EVEN IF HOMO SAPIENS DOES DESTROY HOMO MUTATIS, YOU CAN'T STOP EVOLUTION! IT IS A NATURAL PROCESS THAT WILL-- AAAGH!
YOU'RE NOT A PART OF THIS!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU COME BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS AND SCREW THIS UP!
THIS COULD BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE--
--WHAT-- WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
YOU ARE DIVIDED BETWEEN WHAT WAS, WHAT IS AND WHAT COULD BE.
ON THIS WORLD, YOU MATTER-- YOU ARE A MAN OF HONOR--OF CONVICTION...
WHAT A RIDICULOUS IRONY-- HERE YOU ARE A BETTER MAN, BUT YOU EXIST IN A WORSE SITUATION. WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER?
SHUT UP!

SHRUNKK
IF YOU HAD THE CHOICE, WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER BE--
--A GOOD MAN ON A WORLD DOOMED TO EXTINCTION OR A BAD MAN ON A WORLD FILLED WITH POTENTIAL?
GNNNRMM!
OKAY, ABE... IF I SURVIVE THIS, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO CUT THAT PAIN-RECEPTOR LINK...
MAJOR JOSTEN... I KNOW YOU HAVE THE MEANS TO KILL ME--
--BUT IN DOING SO, YOU MIGHT ACCELERATE THE POWERS I'M MANIFESTING TO THE POINT WHERE ALL OF THIS REALITY WILL CEASE TO EXIST.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU USE THE BIOAGENT THAT SLOWS DOWN MY METABOLIC RATE--
--YOUR PLOT AGAINST THE KREE WILL BE EXPOSED--
--YOU WILL BE EXECUTED FOR TREASON--
--AND YOUR ENTIRE HUMAN UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT WILL COLLAPSE!
ON A WORLD RESTORED TO ITS PROPER PLACE, YOU WOULD LIVE ON AS A DEEPLY FLAWED MAN OF WEAK AND WAVERING PRINCIPLES.
ON THIS ONE, YOU DIE A MAN OF HONOR... AND A HERO TO BILLIONS... EVEN AS THEY ALL LOSE HOPE.

SHUN
CLUNNN
WHIK
VHRRR
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.
WHY? IF YOU HAVE SO MUCH POWER, WHY CAN'T YOU DECIDE?
BECAUSE... BECAUSE...I THINK MY DECISIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WRONG...
...I THINK... MAYBE--I CHOSE THIS REALITY FOR MYSELF--SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO LIVE WITH SO MUCH...RESPONSIBILITY.
YOU-- WEAK...ALIEN! LIFE IS RESPONSIBILITY!
I'M NOT GOING TO RISK EVERY LIFE ON THIS PLANET JUST TO ADVANCE MY CAUSE--
--BUT I'M NOT GOING TO STOP TRYING TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S SOMETHING YOUR OLD MAN WOULD'VE UNDERSTOOD...
I COULD STOP HIM--EASILY-- BUT WHAT WERE MY OPTIONS?
LIVE AND RISK DESTROYING THIS WORLD-- OR DIE AND RISK DESTROYING THIS WORLD.
NEITHER OPTION GUARANTEED A RETURN TO MY--TO OUR--REAL WORLD--THAT WAS IN THE HANDS OF...OTHERS...
COWARD.
HE DIDN'T KNOW... HOW HARD A CHOICE IT WAS FOR ME TO DO NOTHING.
ENSURING I WOULD LIVE ON A WORLD WHERE I GLADLY ACCEPT BEING LESS...
...RATHER THAN RETURNING TO A WORLD...

...WHERE I HAVE FAILED TRYING TO BE MORE...
HE IS IN A CATATONIC STATE.
HIS PHOTONIC FLUCTUATIONS HAVE SUBSIDED. WE CAN MINIMIZE HIS R.E.M. STATE TO AVOID STIMULATION DURING DREAMING.
IT IS IRONIC...
...IF YOU HAD NOT DEVELOPED A BIOTOXIN AGAINST MY PEOPLE, PRIVATE VELL MIGHT HAVE DESTROYED THIS WORLD.
WE DIDN'T DEVELOP THAT TOXIN, JUDGE ADVOCATE RONAN... THE HUMANS DID!
YES... WELL, TO US...
...YOU ARE ALL HUMANS...


MAJOR ERIK JOSTEN WAS JUST FOUND DRIVING A STOLEN VEHICLE OUTSIDE OF PHOENIX.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN THERE?
NO, SIR. HE'S BEEN AWOL FOR HOURS NOW.
AND DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT AN *EXPLOSION* FIFTY MILES AWAY THAT CONSUMED A DAMAGED SENTINEL?
MUCH LESS HOW A LONE SENTINEL ARM WAS FOUND AT *THIS* SCENE?
I'M ASKING, SINCE WE HAVE *NO RECORD* OF ANY SENTINELS BEING DEPLOYED HERE...?
NO, SIR, I DON'T.
IT IS RUMORED THE HUMAN UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE HAD BEEN TRYING TO ATTAIN ABANDONED SENTINEL TECHNOLOGY TO USE AGAINST US.
US, MR. KILLGRAVE?
I HAVE ALWAYS LIKENED MYSELF TO A MUTANT, SIR, WITH THE GIFT FOR *PURPLE PROSE* AND THE POWER OF *PERSUASION*.
WOULDN'T THAT BE A VERY DANGEROUS POWER INDEED, MR. KILLGRAVE?
GENERAL DUGAN, FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN ABOUT JOSTEN.
IT WOULD BE A SHAME FOR HIM TO BE PROVEN A *TRAITOR*...
...BUT AN EVEN GREATER SHAME SHOULD HE TAKE *YOU* DOWN WITH HIM....
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SELL JOSTEN OUT! I WOULD'VE--
WE--?
WATCHED A NETWORK WE WORKED VERY LONG AND HARD TO DEVELOP COME UNDONE.
GENERAL, SOMETIMES THE BEST WAY TO PULL THE STRINGS...
CLIK CLIK CLIK
...IS TO PLAY THE PART OF THE *PUPPET*...
THE END

FANTASTIC FOUR: HOUSE OF M #1

Mutants rule the world. Homo sapiens, few in number, cling to the margins, warming themselves on the last faint flickers of life before extinction.

The new masters won by changing the past. Those who would fight to restore the human order have been given impossible new lives, impossible new histories to keep them occupied.

Reed Richards is dead, and there is no Fantastic Four. Instead, Victor Von Doom leads a team called the Fearsome Four, which is frequently called upon to do the House of M's dirty work. But Doom is human, not a mutant--and despite having given himself and his family super-powers, he still feels mutantkind's continuing dominion over the globe is an insult he cannot abide...

HOUSE OF M

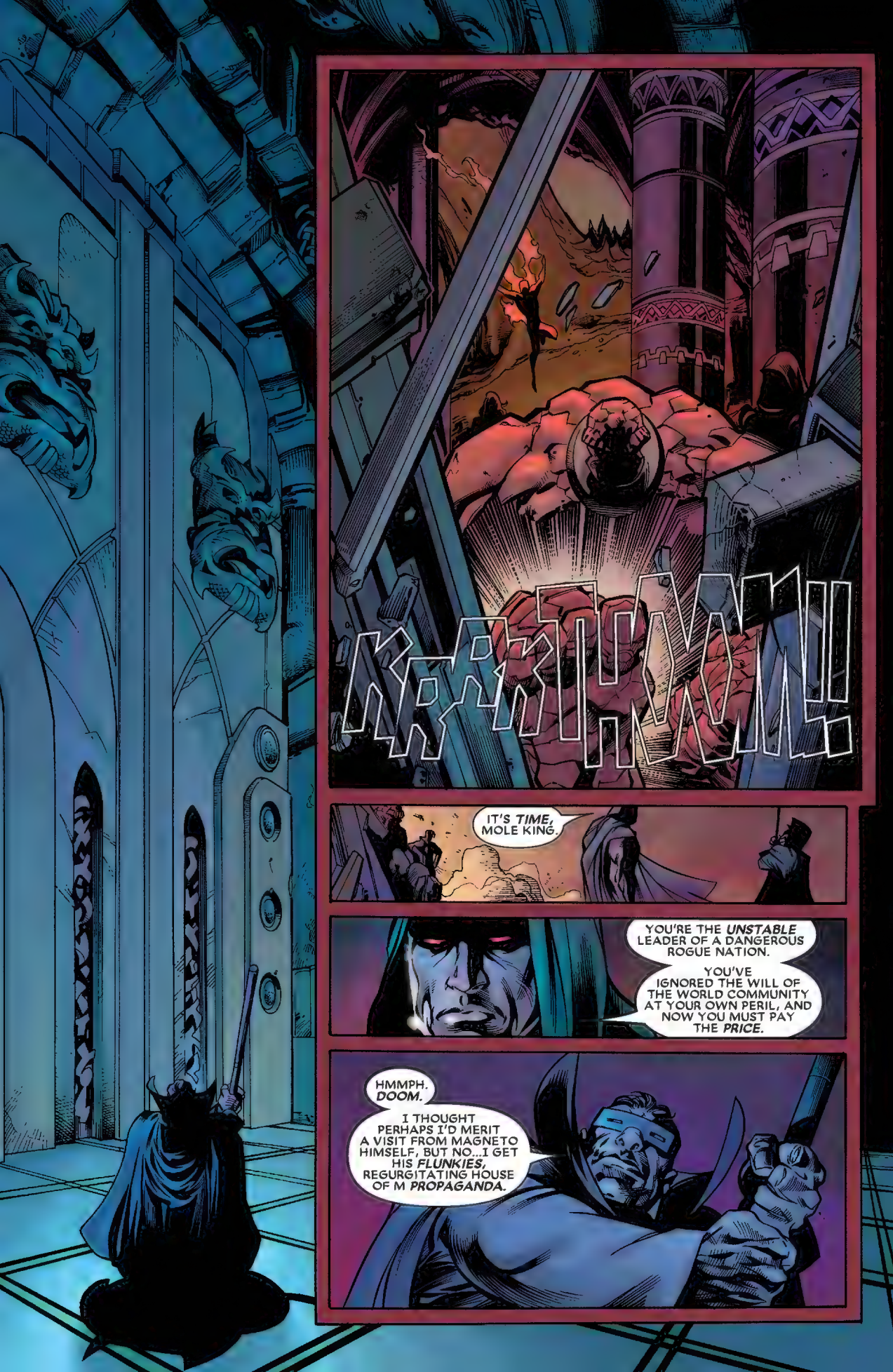
SUBTERRANEA
IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL WORLD. HIS OWN PERFECT WORLD.
LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.
BUT NO DREAM LASTS FOREVER.
THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH THE LAST OF OUR OUTER PERIMETER, MY LORD. IT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER NOW.
THE DREAMER AWAKENS...
LET THEM COME. WE CAN'T STOP THEM.
...AND THE PERFECT WORLD IS GONE FOREVER--

--DOOMED!

A Doctor in the House

YOU WON'T TAKE US WITHOUT A FIGHT! WE'LL PROTECT OUR MASTER TO OUR DYING BREATH! WE'RE NOT *AFRAID* OF YOU!
OH, BUT YOU *SHOULD* BE...
SCRRKKOW
THERE IS A REASON, AFTER ALL, WE ARE CALLED...
...THE FEARSOME FOUR!

"THE INVINCIBLE WOMAN.
VILE CREATURES.
I DON'T EVEN LIKE TO TOUCH YOU TELEKINETICALLY.
"THE INHUMAN TORCH.
LIGHTEN UP, MOTHER. PROTECTING THE WORLD FROM THE BAD GUYS IS SUPPOSED TO BE FUN, REMEMBER?
"AND THE IT."
GO GIT 'EM, BOY...
...IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
FWWAMM


KRRRAKOOM!!
IT'S TIME, MOLE KING.
YOU'RE THE UNSTABLE LEADER OF A DANGEROUS ROGUE NATION.
YOU'VE IGNORED THE WILL OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY AT YOUR OWN PERIL, AND NOW YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE.
HMMPH. DOOM.
I THOUGHT PERHAPS I'D MERIT A VISIT FROM MAGNETO HIMSELF, BUT NO...I GET HIS FLUNKIES, REGURGITATING HOUSE OF M PROPAGANDA.

DOOM SERVES NO MAN. AND CERTAINLY NO MUTANT.
DOOM SERVES *WITH* MAGNETO, HE DOES NOT *SERVE* MAGNETO.
HA!
EVEN *YOU* AREN'T *THAT* DELUSIONAL.
YOU CAN ALTER YOUR BODY AND YOUR LACKEYS WITH DARK SORCERY AND WEIRD SCIENCE ALL YOU WANT. YOU CAN *TRY* TO COMPETE IN A WORLD *OWNED* BY MUTANTS.
IN THE END, YOU'RE *STILL* ONLY *HUMAN*. THAT MAKES YOU MAGNETO'S TRAINED MONKEY, NO MATTER WHAT *POWER* YOU POSSESS.
YOUR CAGE JUST HAPPENS TO BE *NICER* THAN MOST.
AND YOU--YOU ARE NOT *EVEN* HUMAN. YOU ARE MERELY LIKE THE VERMIN THAT IS YOUR NAMESAKE.
AND YOU WILL BE *EXTERMINATED* AS SUCH.
ODIOUS LITTLE RODENT! YOU DARE SPEAK LIKE *THIS* TO *ROYALTY?*
LET *ME* KILL HIM, HUSBAND.
HOLD, VALERIA.
I AM THE ROYALTY, HERE. I AM MASTER OF THIS SUBTERRANEAN NATION.
YOU *HAVE* NO NATION. NOTHING RECOGNIZED BY THE *INTERNATIONAL* COMMUNITY.
BY YOUR OWN WORDS, YOU ARE VERY LIKELY A *TRAITOR,* A MEMBER OF THE RESISTANCE.
"INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY"? THERE *IS* NO SUCH THING! "RESISTANCE"?! ANYBODY NOT IN LOCKSTEP WITH THE HOUSE OF M!
YOU ARE A *PUPPET,* DOOM! A FOOL!

IT IS FAR BETTER TO *DIE* A *KING*...
...THAN TO *LIVE* A *SLAVE*.
AND DIE YOU SHALL.
I LET YOU LIVE *JUST* LONG ENOUGH TO SEE YOUR *PATHETIC* KINGDOM COME TO AN END.
ACK!
GCKK!
AND NOW, "YOUR MAJESTY"...
...TIME'S UP.
SNAP

LATVERIA
HOME SWEET HOME.
WELCOME HOME DOOM
IT'S NICE TO BE ON SOLID GROUND AGAIN. AS OPPOSED TO SOME STINKY OL' HOLE FULL OF DISGUSTING *MOLE* CREATURES.
SMILE, DEAR...AND SIT UP *STRAIGHT*.
THESE ARE YOUR PEOPLE. LET THEM GET A GOOD LOOK AT THEIR BELOVED *LEADER*.
FATHER, ARE WE DONE WITH *GOVERNMENT BUSINESS?* MAY I BE EXCUSED?
BUT OF COURSE, MY SON. YOU MADE ME PROUD TODAY.
GO. ENJOY YOURSELF.
OH, I *PLAN* TO.

YOU! AND YOU! YOU'RE WITH ME.
P-PRINCE KRISTOFF?
YOU GIRLS LIKE *PARTIES?* I'M THROWING A VICTORY CELEBRATION BACK AT MY SUITE.
C'MON.
HMM. MAYBE IT'S TIME I SIT MY YOUNG WARD DOWN AND TALK TO HIM ABOUT KEEPING THOSE *BASER INSTINCTS* OF HIS UNDER CONTROL.
TOO MANY OF HIS "PARTIES" END UP WITH HIS LITTLE PLAYMATES RECOVERING IN THE *BURN WARD.*
LEAVE HIM BE, DARLING. HE'S *YOUNG.*
HE'LL HAVE ADULT RESPONSIBILITIES SOON ENOUGH... FOR NOW, LET HIM HAVE HIS *FUN.*
LOOK AT IT. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL WORLD, VICTOR...
...AND IT'S *ALL* OURS.

LATER
GOOD AFTERNOON, SIRE.
GOOD AFTERNOON, SIRE.

COME ALONG, MY FRIEND. INTO YOUR PEN.
YOU DID WELL TODAY, MY PET. *VERY* WELL.
FANKEW.
BORIS! EXTRA MEAT TODAY FOR THE *IT*. EXTRA RATIONS OF WHATEVER HE WANTS. CLEAN BLANKETS! AND HOSE OUT THE *FILTH* IN THIS CAGE.
NOTHING IS TOO GOOD FOR--
NOTHING TOO GOOD--
YOUR CAGE JUST HAPPENS TO BE *NICER* THAN MOST.
MY LIEGE?
NEVER MIND.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

REPORT, ACOLYTE.
WE'VE ACHIEVED SOME SUCCESS BREACHING THE DIMENSIONAL GATES INTO THE LAND OF DARK FIRE, MY LORD. BUT WE HAVE YET TO CONJURE AN ADEQUATE WEAPON AGAINST ITS DEMON HORDES.
NONE OF US POSSESS *YOUR* SKILL WITH SORCERY, MY LORD.
HMM. DISAPPOINTING.
AND THE *SCIENCE* DIVISION?
WE'VE MANAGED TO FUSE ATOMS FROM BORON AND RADIUM, AND REVERSE THE POLARITY OF ITS LEPTONS, CREATING A COMPLETELY NEW METALLIC *ELEMENT.*
NO. *NO* METALS.
CONCENTRATE ON LIQUIDS AND GASES. REFERENCE MY TREATISE ON THE CONSEQUENCE OF GAMMA-BOMBARDED NEUTRINOS UPON THE FREEZING POINT OF INERT GASES.
WHAT *ELSE?*
MY LORD, YOU ASKED MY TEAM TO RESEARCH POTENTIAL SCENARIOS FOR *ALTERING* THE *IT* AND I BELIEVE WE'VE MADE SOME PROGRESS.
I FOUND A VERY INTERESTING OLD THESIS ON THE INTERNET: *SUPPOSITIONS ON THE EFFECTS OF COSMIC RAYS ON DNA AND HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.*
UTTERLY *FASCINATING* WORK. IT WAS WRITTEN BY A COLLEGE *CLASSMATE* OF YOURS, ONE REE--
RICHARDS?
REED RICHARDS!?!
HE WAS A *FOOL,* HIS RESEARCH PEDESTRIAN AND ILL-CONCEIVED!
THAT'S WHY HE'S *DEAD,* AND HIS ENTIRE SAD CREW OF SPACE EXPLORERS MET ONLY WITH DISASTER AND *RUIN.*
HOWEVER... IF YOU FIND THE *LATE* DOCTOR RICHARDS' WORK *SO* COMPLETELY FASCINATING, BY ALL MEANS, *MENTION* HIM AGAIN IN MY PRESENCE, AND I'LL TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS FOR YOU TO *JOIN* HIM.
I TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU. WHEN I RETURN, PRAY YOUR TEAMS HAVE MORE *SUBSTANTIVE* ANSWERS FOR ME.

HELLO, MOTHER.
RAP RAP
VICTOR!
YOU'RE LOOKING LOVELY TODAY, DEAR. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
OH, FINE. A BIT WARM, PERHAPS.
WHERE ARE YOUR *ATTENDANTS?* THEY PUT YOU TOO CLOSE TO THE FIRE. I WILL HAVE THEM *FLAYED* WITHIN AN INCH OF THEIR MISERABLE--
IT'S OKAY, MY LOVE. I'M *FINE*. REALLY.
SIT DOWN. TELL MOTHER WHERE YOU'VE BEEN. WHAT YOU'VE BEEN *UP* TO.

NOTHING YOU NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH, MOTHER. JUST ATTENDING TO SOME AFFAIRS OF STATE, DEALING WITH THE LEADER OF A ROGUE NATION WITH WHOM I DID NOT SEE EYE TO EYE.
OH, VICTOR. DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING ERRANDS AGAIN FOR THAT HORRIBLE MUTANT...MAGNETO.
DOOM DOES NOT RUN ERRANDS, MOTHER.
I SIMPLY DID WHAT WAS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF LATVERIA.
MY KINGDOM.
I HAVE NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT, MOTHER. I HAVE EVERYTHING I COULD EVER WISH FOR, HAVE I NOT?
I HAVE YOU, I HAVE A BEAUTIFUL, DEVOTED WIFE, A BRIGHT YOUNG SON, AND I AM ABSOLUTE RULER OF ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL NATIONS ON THE PLANET.
"ONE OF," YES.
NEVER MIND ME, CHILD. I AM A RIDICULOUS OLD WOMAN, NATTERING ON. I KNOW NOT OF WHAT I SPEAK.
I ONLY WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU. WHAT YOU DESERVE.
KNOCK KNOCK
MY LORD. YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED IN THE CONFERENCING CHAMBER.
NOT NOW.
THE REQUEST COMES FROM THE HOUSE OF M.

PIETRO.
DOOM.
I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU. MY FATHER REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE IN GENOSHA.
I'M SORRY, PIETRO.
I'M JUST RECENTLY RETURNED TO LATVERIA. I HAVE OTHER BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO FIRST.
TELL MAGNETO I'LL CONTACT HIM AT MY EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.
CLICK
DOOM.
YOU MISUNDERSTAND.
MAGNETO'S REQUEST...WAS NOT A REQUEST.

GENOSHA
LORD DOOM, TO SEE MAGNETO.
HALT! STAY WHERE YOU ARE. WE WILL INFORM LORD MAGNETO OF YOUR ARRIVAL.

LORD DOOM!
GOOD TO SEE YOU, MY FRIEND. THANK YOU FOR *VISITING* ME.

THAT BUSINESS WITH MY GUARDS, THAT WAS *UNNECESSARY*.
DOOM DOES NOT--
YES, YES. I KNOW.
PIETRO... SOME PRIVACY, PLEASE?
I-I--
PLEASE.
AND TAKE THAT... *THING* OUT OF HERE.
THE *IT*, MAGNUS. WE CALL HIM *"THE IT."*
IN ANY CASE, THE DULL BRUTE HAS NOT THE CAPACITY TO COMPREHEND OUR DIALOGUE.
HONESTLY, I CAN'T SEE WHY YOU DON'T USE YOUR *SORCERY* TO CRAFT A LESS *REPUGNANT* ENFORCER TO ROUND OUT YOUR FANTASTIC QUARTET.
HE IS A REMINDER OF TIMES GONE BY...
...OF *ENEMIES* VANQUISHED.
KEEPING HIM NEAR *AMUSES* ME.

SO: TELL ME OF THE MOLE KING.
HIS TERRITORY SITS ON VAST REPOSITORIES OF URANIUM AND VIBRANIUM. WERE YOU ABLE TO NEGOTIATE A SATISFACTORY TRADE AGREEMENT?
THE MOLE KING WAS... UNCOOPERATIVE.
DOOM, AM I TO UNDERSTAND--?
NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW *IRRELEVANT.*
OUR EMPIRES SHALL *DIVIDE* THE RICHES.
INDEED.
DOOM, MIGHT I GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE, AS A COLLEAGUE...AND AS A *FRIEND?*

TRULY, YOU ARE FIRST AMONG MEN.
AMONG *MEN,* VICTOR.
BUT EGO AND TEMPER MAKE FOR A *DANGEROUS* COMBINATION. YOU MUST BE MINDFUL.

SAGE COUNSEL...
DOOM THANKS YOU.
I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEXT MEETING.
LIKEWISE.
PRESUME TO GIVE DOOM ADVICE?!
"FIRST... AMONG MEN"!!!
KWAHH
CONDESCENDING
THWAM
MUTANT
WHUD
TRASH!
WHOOMP

THAT DIDN'T HURT YOU.
GET UP.
THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE.
THIS CAN NOT CONTINUE. THE HOUSE OF M MUST FALL.
THE HOUSE OF M WILL FALL.
AND FROM ITS ASHES, A HOUSE OF DOOM WILL RISE!

FANTASTIC FOUR: HOUSE OF M #2

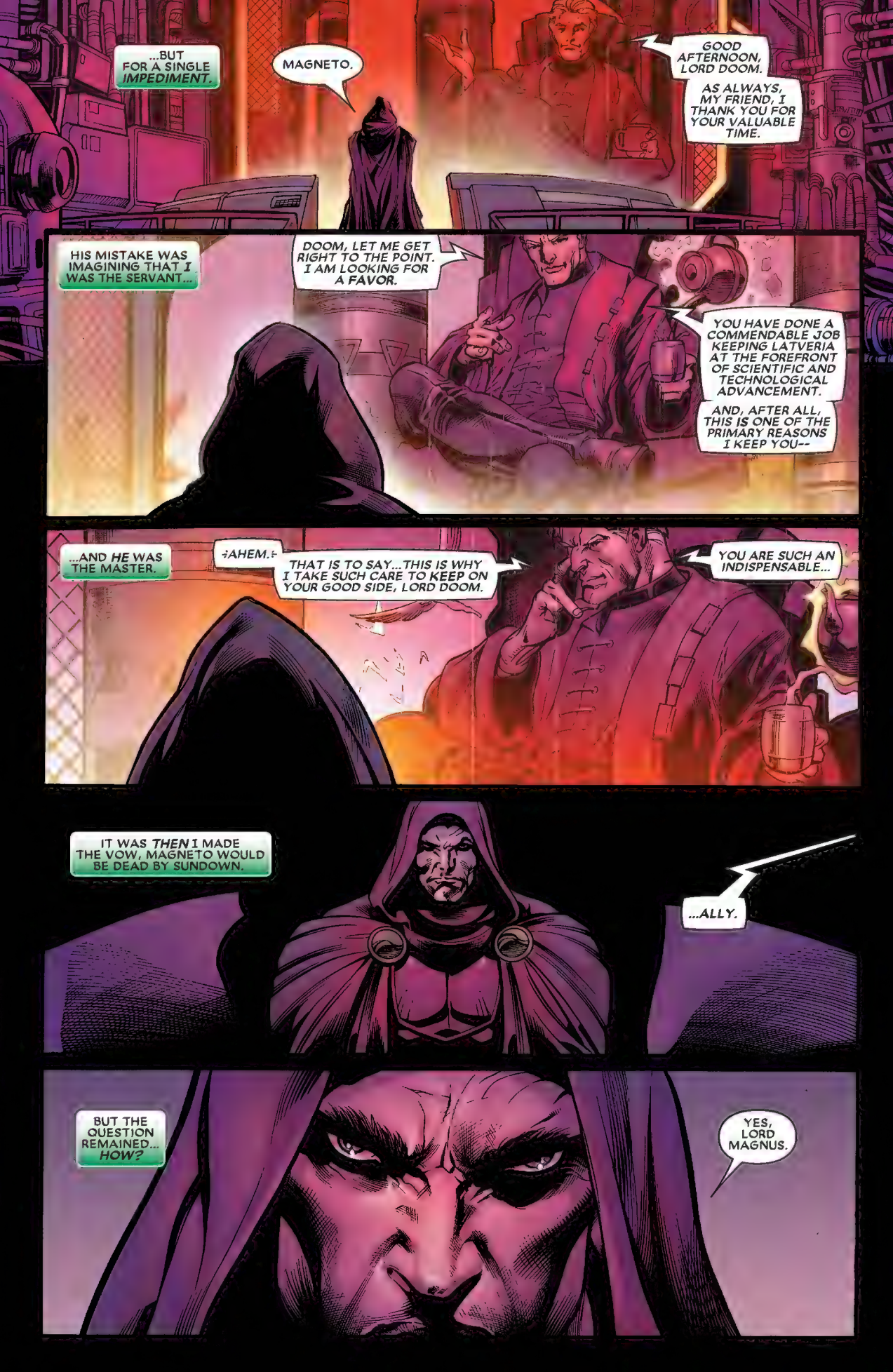
I SUPPOSE THE ORIGIN OF OUR STRANGE QUARTET STARTS HERE.
WITH A ROCKET CAPSULE RETURNED FROM AN ILL-FATED EXCURSION INTO SPACE.
INTO WATERS CONTROLLED BY LATVERIA.
WHOA! WHAT THE--?!?
INTO THE WAITING HANDS OF DOOM.
SHOW ME.

THE CREW'S CORPSES WERE FANTASTICALLY ALTERED.
REED RICHARDS. SUSAN STORM. JOHN JAMESON. EACH OF THEM DEAD. EACH OF THEM DISFIGURED.
IT WAS THAT WHICH GAVE ME THE IDEA.
UGHHHH...
OH, GAWD! WHAT IS THAT THING?
I DUNNO. BUT IT'S STILL ALIVE.
THE INSPIRATION.

PL-L-LEASE.
K-K-KILL M-ME.
HMMM.
NO, I THINK *NOT*.
TAKE THE CREATURE BELOW.
I HAVE *PLANS* FOR IT.
SNAP!
BEN GRIMM.
THE IT.
HE WOULD BE THE *FIRST* MEMBER OF THE TEAM.

THE OTHERS I WOULD CREATE...
...USING ANCIENT SECRETS, FORGOTTEN ALCHEMY AND THE DARKEST MAGIKS.
MY WIFE, VALERIA.
I CHOSE THE TWO PEOPLE CLOSEST TO ME FOR THIS HONOR.
MY FAMILY.
AND MY YOUNG WARD, KRISTOFF.
I WOULD BE THE FINAL MEMBER OF THIS TEAM.
A TEAM WITH THE COMBINED POWER TO RULE THE WORLD...
...TO TAKE BACK THE WORLD...FROM THE ABOMINATIONS WHICH HAVE CLAIMED IT.

WE WOULD BE FOUR...
...A FEARSOME FOUR...
...AND WE WOULD BE UTTERLY UNSTOPPABLE...
Four the Hard Way


...BUT FOR A SINGLE IMPEDIMENT.
MAGNETO.
GOOD AFTERNOON, LORD DOOM.
AS ALWAYS, MY FRIEND, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME.
HIS MISTAKE WAS IMAGINING THAT I WAS THE SERVANT...
DOOM, LET ME GET RIGHT TO THE POINT. I AM LOOKING FOR A FAVOR.
YOU HAVE DONE A COMMENDABLE JOB KEEPING LATVERIA AT THE FOREFRONT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT.
AND, AFTER ALL, THIS IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY REASONS I KEEP YOU--
...AND HE WAS THE MASTER.
-AHEM.-
THAT IS TO SAY...THIS IS WHY I TAKE SUCH CARE TO KEEP ON YOUR GOOD SIDE, LORD DOOM.
YOU ARE SUCH AN INDISPENSABLE...
IT WAS THEN I MADE THE VOW, MAGNETO WOULD BE DEAD BY SUNDOWN.
...ALLY.
BUT THE QUESTION REMAINED... HOW?
YES, LORD MAGNUS.

AND THEN, THE FOOL HANDED ME THE SOLUTION.
I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL RESEARCH. I'M HOPING YOU MIGHT DIRECT ME TO SOME OTHERWORLDLY PLANE THAT MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR INCARCERATION OF SOME OF MY ENEMIES.
AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAS BEEN SOME SCATTERED RESISTANCE TO THE HOUSE OF M. AND THERE ARE SOME AMONG THIS INSURGENCY THAT I WOULD SEE SAFELY CONTAINED.
IT WOULD BE ALMOST TOO EASY.
ENEMIES!? IF YOU HAVE ENEMIES, YOU MUST SMITE THEM. ONE DOES NOT SUFFER AN OPPONENT TO LIVE.
ONE ATTACKS! FAST, AND WITHOUT MERCY. THAT IS THE WAY OF POWER. THAT IS THE WAY OF DOOM!
UNDERSTOOD, LORD DOOM. HOWEVER, IN MY OPINION, SOMETIMES IT IS MORE PRUDENT TO ALLOW ADVERSARIES TO LIVE. AND SOME ENEMIES ARE SIMPLY TOO VALUABLE TO KILL.
SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT FINDING A SUITABLE HOLDING DIMENSION, WOULD YOU, PLEASE?
SHALL WE SAY, END OF THE WEEK?
ABSOLUTELY, MY LORD.
IN FACT, I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF IT WAS END OF THE DAY.

IT WILL GO EASIER IF YOU DO NOT SQUIRM SO MUCH THIS TIME.
YEAARGH
WUUARRR
YOUR GRACE. EXCELLENT NEWS!
WE'VE MANAGED TO EXTRACT SEVERAL SAMPLES FROM THE DEEPEST LEVEL OF THE IT'S SILICA-DERMA. I EXPECT A FULL ANALYSIS WILL YIELD A *WEALTH* OF INFORMATION ON THE PROPERTIES OF *COSMIC RAYS.*
AFTER THAT, REVERSING, OR EVEN *ENHANCING* THE EFFECTS, SHOULD JUST BE A MATTER OF TI--
IT CAN WAIT. I HAVE *NEED* OF THE CREATURE.
OOOOHHH.
GET UP, YOU.
SIRE, I'M NOT SURE THE BRUTE SHOULD BE WALKING AROUND JUST YET. THE PROCEDURE IS *QUITE* PAINFUL.
NONSENSE. THE IT SERVES *MY* WILL. YOU FEEL *FINE, DON'T* YOU?

THESE TESTS...
...YOU FIND...WAY TO...
...CHANGE... MY FORM?
THAT WAS THE GENERAL IDEA, YES.
DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH SUCH QUESTIONS, MONSTER. ANY ANSWER I WOULD GIVE WOULD BE SO FAR BEYOND YOUR INTELLECTUAL GRASP THAT IT WOULD ONLY WASTE BOTH OF OUR TIME.
BESIDES, WE HAVE BUSINESS ELSEWHERE...
...THE EXTRADIMENSIONAL TRANSPORTER AWAITS.

GOOD MORNING, FATHER.
KRISTOFF VON DOOM, REPORTING FOR DUTY!
VICTOR, THIS IS UNEXPECTED. WHY HAVE YOU CALLED FOR US? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
QUITE THE *OPPOSITE*, MY DEAR.
SOON... WE WILL MAKE THINGS *RIGHT*.
PROCEED.
ZZZNNNNN
THE E.D.T. COORDINATES ARE TUNED TO YOUR EXACT SPECIFICATIONS, YOUR LORDSHIP, DOWN TO THE LAST ATTO-HERTZ.
FOR YOUR SAKE, THEY HAD BETTER BE.
NNNNZZZ

ZZZZNNNNN
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WHOA! WHERE ARE WE?
DOES IT MATTER?
NOT IN THE SLIGHTEST.
HELLFIRE ON!

DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU HAD A *CHANCE*, YOU MANGY CREATURES...
...AGAINST THE *INVINCIBLE WOMAN*...
...OR THE *IT?*
KAFWAHHHH
AND I'M TOLD THE *INHUMAN TORCH* AIN'T TOO SHABBY WHEN IT COMES TO LIGHTING UP A ROOM...
...OR RAZING A WEIRD ALIEN VILLAGE.

OF COURSE, MY LORD.
SURE THING, FATHER. BUT ONE *QUESTION*--
--WHO *ARE* THESE PEOPLE? MORE INSURGENTS? POTENTIAL ALIEN INVADERS? ENEMIES OF THE STATE?
ENOUGH!
FINISH THIS.
TARGET PRACTICE.
NOTHING MORE.

HOWEVER, WE *DID* NEED TO CLEAR SOME SPACE...TO PREPARE OUR BATTLEGROUND-- THE ARENA OF OUR TRIUMPH.
THIS IS THE PLACE. IT IS *THIS* DIMENSION THAT IS THE KEY.
THIS IS THE OUTERMOST PLANE THAT THE EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL TRANSPORTER HAS BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS. REALITY IS THIN HERE, LIKE AIR AT THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN. ITS BOUNDARIES ARE WEAK.
IN A PLACE SUCH AS THIS, MY SORCERY IS *IMPOSSIBLY STRONG.*
THE LAWS OF SCIENCE WE TAKE TO BE *ABSOLUTE* IN *OUR* REALITY ARE DIMINISHED... FLEXIBLE.
WHAT, LIKE GRAVITY?
WELL, YES, BUT IN *THIS* INSTANCE, I AM MUCH MORE CONCERNED WITH AN ALTOGETHER *DIFFERENT* BRANCH OF PHYSICS...
...ELECTRO-MAGNETICS.

I BROUGHT YOU HERE FOR A SECOND REASON AS WELL: I NEEDED A PLACE THAT WAS REMOTE, ONE I COULD BE *SURE* WAS SECURE FROM HOUSE OF M SPIES AND PRYING EYES...
...TO OUTLINE A PLAN TO THE ONLY PEOPLE ON THIS OR ANY OTHER WORLD WHOM I *TRUST*.
EVERYTHING I'VE DONE, FOR SOME TIME, HAS BEEN FOR A SINGLE PURPOSE. EVERY HUMILIATION I'VE ENDURED, I'VE TOLERATED WITH *THIS* IN MIND.
I'VE STUDIED EVERY KNOWN DISCIPLINE, IN BOTH THE DARK ARTS AND SCIENCE, TO BUILD THE APPROPRIATE WEAPONS, THE OFFENSES AND DEFENSES WE NEED FOR OUR TASK.
I'VE EXPLORED EVERY ANGLE, FROM PACTS WITH DEMONS TO NANO-ROBOTICS, EVEN THE EXPLOITATION OF *COSMIC RAYS,* IN HOPES WE COULD *FURTHER* ENHANCE OUR BODIES WITH THE MOST FANTASTIC OF POWERS.
WHA--? *ENHANCE?*
QUIET!!
NOT... *CURE!?*
MANNERS, IT, MANNERS. DON'T *INTERRUPT* THE MASTER.
I'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS DAY FOR SOME TIME.
THE DAY WHEN DOOM ASCENDS TO HIS *RIGHTFUL* PLACE, ON A THRONE FOR *ALL* MAN AND MUTANT-KIND.

WE MUST STRIKE--*IMMEDIATELY*--WHILE WE STILL HAVE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.
WE SHALL BRING DOWN THE HOUSE OF M, THE *ENTIRE* ROYAL FAMILY. TAKE ON OUR ENEMIES IN A PLACE *FAR* AWAY FROM THE *UNFAIR ADVANTAGE* OF THEIR *MUTANT* ARMIES AND ROBOTIC STOOGES.
AND, THEN, *YOU* WILL BE THE FIRST FAMILY OF THE GLORIOUS HOUSE OF *DOOM,* WHICH WILL RISE UP IN ITS STEAD.
I AM WITH YOU, MY HUSBAND.
AS AM I, FATHER.
S'MATTER OF FACT, I ALWAYS WONDERED WHY YOU DIDN'T PLAN SOMETHING LIKE THIS *SOONER.*
I-I W-W-W...
YES, YES. OF COURSE *YOU* ARE.
NOW COME ALONG. AND LISTEN CAREFULLY...

LATER, BACK IN LATVERIA...
YOU LOOK TROUBLED, MY SON.
MOTHER, WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* OUT HERE? YOU'LL CATCH COLD!
NONSENSE. I AM FINE... WHILE YOU ARE CLEARLY *BOTHERED* BY SOMETHING.
ARE YOU FINALLY WEARY OF PLAYING LACKEY FOR THAT GHASTLY *MUTANT*, MAGNETO?
YES, MOTHER, I AM. AND I AM TAKING ACTION TO ENSURE DOOM SERVES NO MAN--OR MUTANT--EVER AGAIN.
EVEN SO, I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER...
WHAT IS IT, CHILD? *SPEAK.*
LOOK AT THEM. UTTERLY DEVOTED, EACH AND EVERY ONE. THEY LOVE ME, UNCONDITIONALLY. THEY OBEY ME, WITHOUT QUESTION.
THERE IS *NOTHING* THEY WOULD NOT DO FOR ME.
MY FAMILY. MY KINGDOM. ALL MY POWER. ALL MY RICHES. WHEN YOU CONSIDER IT, I AM A VERY LUCKY MAN.
I WONDER...
SHOULDN'T *THIS* BE ENOUGH?

STOP THIS FOOLISH TALK AT ONCE! YOU ARE A *DOOM*.
YOU ARE ROYAL BLOOD. YOU SERVE NO MAN, AND CERTAINLY NO *MUTANT*. *THAT* IS THE WAY IT IS TO BE.
NOW, YOU PUT THOSE DOUBTS ASIDE. YOU GO TO MAGNETO AND YOU DO *EXACTLY* WHAT YOUR MOTHER SAYS...
"...*KILL* THE SCUM."
MAGNETO!
LORD DOOM, THIS IS INDEED A SURPRISE. I DID NOT EXPECT TO SEE YOU SO SOON.
MY LORD MAGNUS, I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL FIND I AM *FULL* OF SURPRISES TODAY.

LADY VALERIA. YOU'RE LOOKING MAGNIFICENT, AS EVER.
YOUR EXCELLENCY.
PRINCE.
PRINCE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME, PIETRO. I DO NOT LIKE THESE AWFUL PEOPLE.
BESIDES, THAT--UGH--*THING*... GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
IS YOUR EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL RESEARCH COMPLETE? AM I TO UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE ***ALREADY*** FOUND A SUITABLE PLANE TO SERVE AS MY PENITENTIARY?
BUT OF COURSE I DID, MAGNUS. I AM ***DOOM***. DID YOU DOUBT ME?

OF COURSE NOT, MY FRIEND, I ONLY MEANT--
IT IS *PERFECT* FOR YOUR PURPOSES. REMOTE. FINITE. INHABITABLE, BUT NOT HOSPITABLE.
BEST OF ALL, IT IS UTTERLY *IMPREGNABLE,* INSIDE OR OUT.
AND IT IS NOT *INHABITED?*
NOT *ANYMORE* IT ISN'T.
÷CHUCKLE÷
FATHER, MAY I HAVE A *WORD* WITH YOU?
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO *SEE* THIS PLACE.
EASILY ARRANGED. IN FACT, MY UNDERLINGS ARE SETTING UP A PROTOTYPE TRANSPORTER. IT WILL BE OPERATIONAL SHORTLY, *IF* THEY KNOW WHAT IS GOOD FOR THEM.
QUICKSILVER *SUSPECTS.*
BE *QUIET,* CHILD.

FATHER, I DO NOT TRUST DOOM. THIS COULD BE A TRAP.
OF COURSE IT COULD, PIETRO.
DOOM IS TREACHEROUS, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK HIM SUICIDAL?
HIS LITTLE BAND OF CIRCUS FREAKS IS NO MATCH FOR US. AND MANY OF THE MEN OPERATING HIS TELEPORTATION MACHINE ARE ACTUALLY MY MEN, AND HAVE BEEN FOR SOME TIME.
BESIDES, WHAT CHANCE HAS A HUMAN WITH THE POWER TO TURN HIMSELF TO LIQUID METAL...
"...AGAINST THE WORLD'S FOREMOST MUTANT MASTER OF MAGNETISM?"
COME, DOOM. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.
NNNNNZZZZ
OH, AS AM I, MAGNUS. AS AM I.
TRANSPORTER OPERATIONAL AND ONLINE, SIRE.
ZZZZNNNNN
SHALL WE?
OH, MOST CERTAINLY, LORD MAGNETO...

...AFTER YOU.

FANTASTIC FOUR: HOUSE OF M #3

LORD MAGNETO, PERHAPS THIS IS A GOOD TIME FOR US TO DISCUSS YOUR *SURRENDER*.
KING FOR A DAY

THIS IS MADNESS, DOOM. SUICIDE! I COULD TURN YOU INSIDE OUT WITH NO MORE EFFORT THAN BATTING AN EYELASH.
SOMETHING'S ROTTEN ABOUT THIS PLACE. THERE'S NO WAY THE PETTY WITCHERY OF THAT WOMAN SHOULD BE FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH ME.
THAT "WOMAN" HAPPENS TO BE MY MOM, PIETRO. YOU CAN REFER TO HER AS "THE INVINCIBLE WOMAN," UNLESS YOU WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT BURNT TONGUE TASTES LIKE.
NO, QUICKSILVER IS CORRECT. THINGS WORK DIFFERENTLY IN THIS GOD-FORSAKEN DIMENSION, SO FAR AWAY FROM OUR REALITY THAT ITS RULES AREN'T EVEN RECOGNIZABLE.
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK ME TO FIND THIS PLACE? A PLACE WHERE YOUR FREAKISH GENETIC TALENT FOR MANIPULATING ELECTROMAGNETICS WOULD NOT GIVE YOU YOUR TYPICAL UNFAIR ADVANTAGE?
YES? THEN WHY DON'T YOU, MAGNUS?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAN'T. NOT HERE.
YOU ARE IN MY PLACE OF STRENGTH NOW, MAGNUS. A PLACE WHERE THE UNHOLY POWER OF THE FEARSOME FOUR IS AT ITS STRONGEST. IT IS NOT THE LAWS OF SCIENCE THAT PREVAIL ON THIS PLANE...BUT THE DARK ARTS--
SHOOM
-- SORCERY!

THE MYSTICAL ENERGY THAT GIVES ME MY INHUMAN TORCH POWERS... I CAN FEEL IT, SURGING WITHIN ME. AND I'M GIVING OFF *CRAZY* HEAT! IT FEELS *AWESOME!*
YES, KRISTOFF. BUT BE PREPARED TO FEEL AN ENTIRELY *DIFFERENT* SORT OF POWER WHEN WE RETURN HOME-- TO A WORLD THAT NOW *BELONGS* TO *US.*
YOU'RE GOING TO *REGRET* THIS, VICTOR.
I FIND THAT *HIGHLY* UNLIKELY.
BEAT THEM INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, CREATURE, AND LET US DEPART.
WHAMM!
BAM!
SMASH
NOT *KILL* THEM, FATHER?
TOO *EASY.* TOO QUICK. DURING THE DAYS AND WEEKS BEFORE STARVATION AND MADNESS TAKE THEM, I WANT THEM TO HAVE AMPLE TIME TO REFLECT AND RUMINATE ON THE TERRIBLE *PRICE* ONE PAYS FOR UNDERESTIMATING *DOOM!*
NOW COME ALONG.
OUR WORLD AWAITS.

OH, DARLING, THAT WAS *SO* MUCH FUN. I *DO* LOVE YOU SO.
YEAH, DAD...THAT *ROCKED!*
M-MY LORD... BACK *SO SOON?*
AND W-W-WHEN DO YOU EXPECT LORD MAGNETO AND THE PRINCE TO RETURN?
MY *ROUGH* ESTIMATION?
NEVER.
SKRCH!

THE WORLD WE KNOW IS ABOUT TO SEE SOME VERY DRASTIC, VERY WELCOME CHANGES.
I KNOW MOST OF YOU ARE LOYAL TO ME.
HOWEVER... I SUSPECT AT LEAST A COUPLE OF YOU HAVE ALLEGIANCES THAT LIE WITH MAGNETO.
SO I DON'T PLAN ON TAKING CHANCES WITH ANY OF YOU.
FRRSHHHCKSSSHRRCK
I'LL BE IN MY NEW QUARTERS, DRAFTING A SPEECH ABOUT THE ACCIDENT WHICH SO TRAGICALLY TOOK THE LIVES OF THE BELOVED HOUSE OF M MONARCHY.
I WILL THEN GENEROUSLY OFFER MY LEADERSHIP TO HELP GUIDE A MOURNING WORLD THROUGH THESE TURBULENT AND TROUBLED TI--
NO.
VALERIA, DEAL WITH POLARIS. KRISTOFF, INCINERATE THIS MESS, THEN DESTROY THE EXTRADIMENSIONAL TRANSPORTER. EVERY LAST BIT OF IT, DOWN TO THE LAST SCREW, GEAR AND MICROCHIP.
THEN FIND A HOLDING CELL SUITABLE FOR THE IT.

NO?!?
NO MORE... CELLS...NO... CAGES.
I'M PART OF...THIS TEAM...
I WANT... RESPECT.
RESPECT?! YOU'RE A MONSTROSITY. WE ALREADY GIVE YOU FAR MORE RESPECT THAN YOU DESERVE.
WHAT I OUGHT TO DO IS THRASH YOU WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR WRETCHED, WORTHLESS LIFE.
FINE.
BUT FOR YOUR SAKE, YOU'D BETTER BE HOUSEBROKEN.

HEY, MOM, YOU CARE IF I HELP YOU WITH POLARIS?
OF COURSE, MY SWEET PRINCE.
LEAVE *HIM* TO SMASH UP THIS STUFF. THAT'S ALL HE'S *GOOD* FOR, AFTER ALL.
YOU MAKE SURE TO CLEAN IT UP AFTER YOU'RE DONE. *ALL* OF IT, YOU *HORRIBLE,* UNGRATEFUL, *STUPID* CREATURE.
I THINK LADY POLARIS' GREEN HAIR IS REALLY PRETTY.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT BURN!

FINALLY.
MINE.
EVERYTHING...
...MINE.

EVENING.
VALERIA, DEAR. KRISTOFF, THERE YOU ARE.
TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY CLOSING LINE: "AND, IN CONCLUSION, I--EMPEROR VICTOR VON DOOM THE FIRST--SWEAR TO CRUSH--
THE DANE WOMAN. SHE IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
WHAT!?!
WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE, FATHER, SHE--
SHE IS WITH ME.
I... FOUND HER.

AND SHE... BROUGHT BACK... THE OTHERS.
BENJY?
TRAITOROUS CUR!
YOU UNSPEAKABLE OBSCENITY.
SCARRKOOMMM

CRASH!!
WE SHOULD HAVE PUT THAT *THING* DOWN A *LONG* TIME AGO.
WHOOM
YES, I'VE TOLD MY FATHER THE SAME THING ABOUT THE *REST* OF YOU.
THAT SURPRISES ME NOT ONE BIT, MUTANT.
FUMMP

THE HOUSE OF M HAS BEEN *MORE* THAN GENEROUS TO YOU. AND *THIS* IS HOW YOU REPAY US?
FWWOOM
THHOOM
DID YOU REALLY EXPECT I WOULD EVER *WILLINGLY* SUBMIT TO THE LIKES OF *YOU*, MAGNUS? *ME?!* DOOM?!?!
NO MORE.
KRRAAKH

THERE THEY ARE! AND THEY'VE HURT LORD MAGNETO!
GREAT. MORE STINKIN' MUTIES TO BLAST ON.
NO. THERE ARE TOO MANY...THEY WILL SOON OVERPOWER US.
HUSBAND...DO SOMETHING!

ONE MOMENT. MAGNETO IS DOWN.
VICTOR, PLEASE!
...I....
FATHER! HELP!!
SCLTCH!
...NEED TO...

...FINISH THIS.
FWOOM!!
BAD MOVE.

A VERY BAD MOVE.
WHA-- WHAT HAVE I DONE?
YOU MADE A CHOICE, DOOM...
...A HORRIBLE MISCALCULATION, BASED ON YOUR SELFISH, SKEWED PRIORITIES...
...A FATAL ERROR.
YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD A CHANCE, METAL MAN, HAD YOU KEPT YOUR FAMILY ALIVE TO FACE A MASTER OF MAGNETISM.
AND A MISTRESS.
NOW, YOU ARE LOST, AND THE QUESTION REMAINS...
...WHAT TO DO WITH YOU?

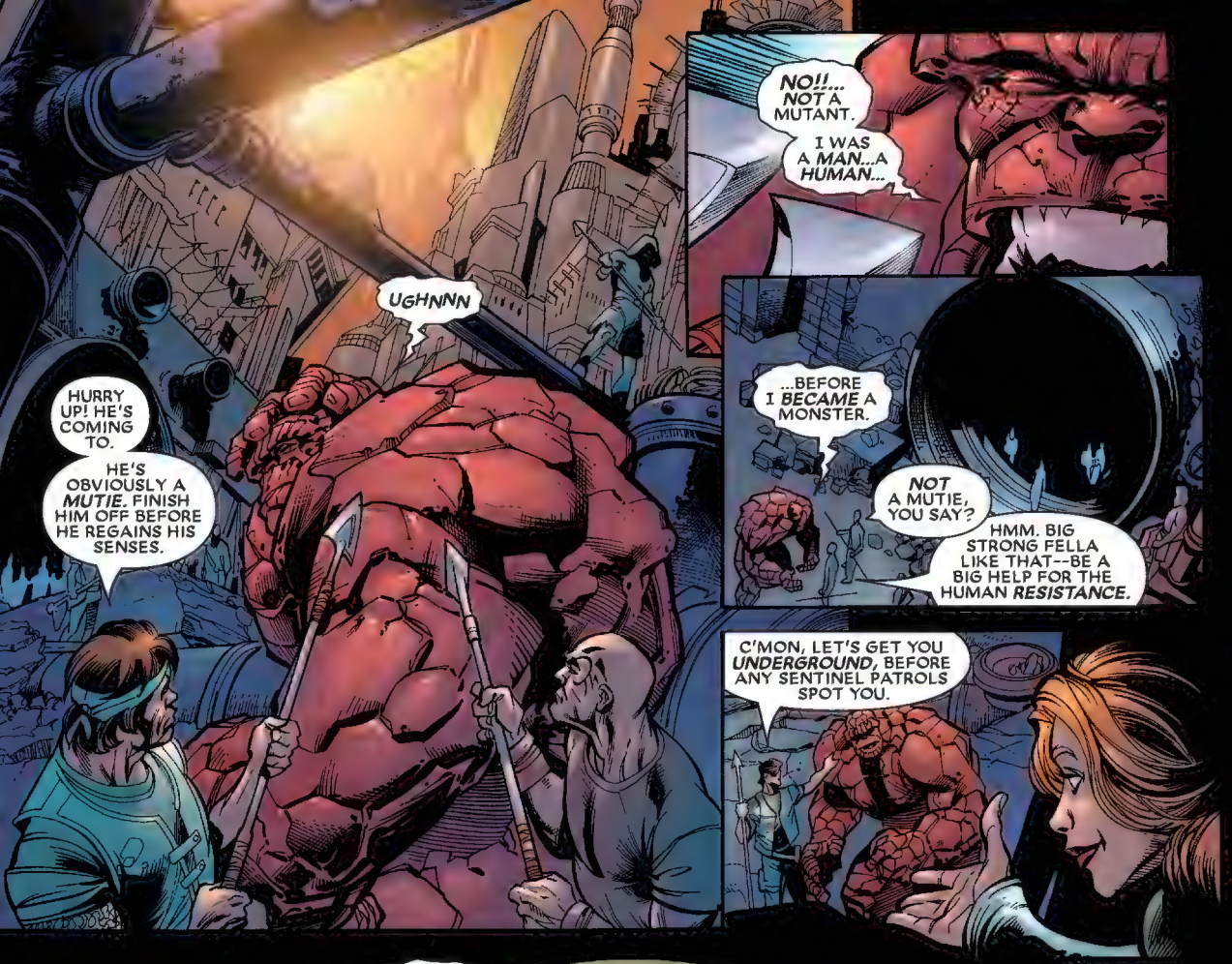
I BELIEVE I HAVE SOME IDEA.
SNAP
BRING IN THE WOMAN.
WHA--
NO!!
MOTHER!
SHE IS *DEAR* TO YOU, IS SHE NOT?
PERHAPS I SHOULD PUNISH *HER* IN YOUR STEAD.
FIRE UP THAT DIMENSIONAL TRANSPORTER YOU STAKED SO MUCH ON, AND CAST HER INTO SOME NETHERWORLDLY DIMENSION... HAND HER OVER TO SOME HUNGRY DEMON WHO'LL FEAST ON HER SOUL FOR ALL ETERNITY.

NO!!
NO, MY LORD, PLEASE! HAVE MERCY! I DIDN'T KNOW. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS *PLANNING.*
PLEASE, M'LORD... MERCY.
THE BOY IS A *TRAITOR,* MY LORD. VILE! DUPLICITOUS!
HE IS NO SON OF *MINE.* HE'S A *MONSTER!*
WELL, THEN. IF THAT IS THE CASE...I GRANT YOU YOUR MERCY, LADY DOOM.
AND I WILL SEE YOU ARE TAKEN *FAR* AWAY FROM HERE AND PROTECTED. I'LL MAKE SURE YOU *NEVER* HAVE TO SEE YOUR TRAITOROUS SPAWN AGAIN.
THANK YOU, M'LORD, THANK YOU.
MOTHER!!!
BE *STILL,* DOOM. THERE IS STILL THE MATTER OF YOUR *PUNISHMENT.*

YOU BETRAYED ME, AFTER ALL I'D DONE FOR YOU, ALL I'D *GIVEN* YOU.
YOU TRIED TO USURP ME. *KILL* ME. KILL MY *FAMILY*.
SKREEEEEE
AAARRRHHHH!
TELL ME... WHAT *SHOULD* YOUR FATE BE? WHAT WOULD *YOU* DO?
GAAHHHH...
WHAT'S THAT, VICTOR? I CAN'T *HEAR* YOU?
...
FLUMP

K-KILL ME.
NO. I HAVE PLANS FOR YOU.
I FORGIVE YOU.
REMOVE HIM FROM MY SIGHT.

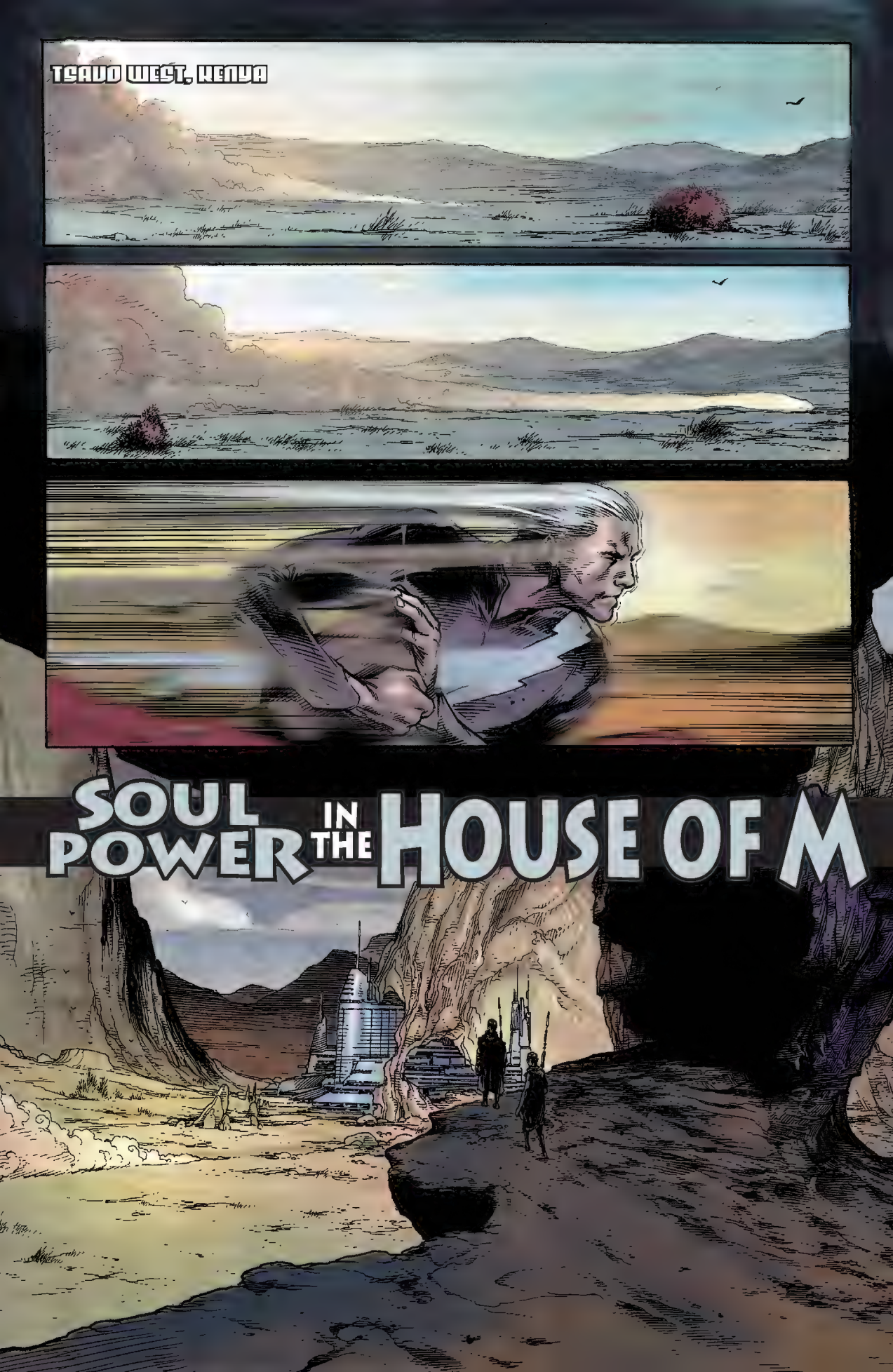
MY LORD? IS THAT WISE... LETTING HIM LIVE?
DOOM IS DIABOLICAL. HE COULD MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT ON THE THRONE.
INDEED HE MIGHT. BUT HE WON'T SUCCEED.
"HE'LL NEVER BE AS STRONG AS HE *WAS*, AND HE'LL NEVER HAVE AS MUCH TO FIGHT FOR. HE HAS LOST *EVERYTHING* HE'S EVER HELD DEAR.
"VICTOR VON DOOM IS A BROKEN MAN.
"HE'LL RETURN TO HIS INCONSEQUENTIAL LATVERIA, AND CONTINUE TO PLAY GOD AMONG THE SMALL-MINDED AND THE WEAK.
"BUT HE'LL NEVER FORGET HIS *TRUE* PLACE IN THE WORLD...
"AND FOR THE REST OF HIS DAYS, I DOUBT THERE WILL BE A MORE *MISERABLE* PERSON ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH."
I SAY WE KILL HIM.


UGHNNN
HURRY UP! HE'S COMING TO.
HE'S OBVIOUSLY A MUTIE. FINISH HIM OFF BEFORE HE REGAINS HIS SENSES.
NO!!... NOT A MUTANT.
I WAS A MAN...A HUMAN...
...BEFORE I BECAME A MONSTER.
NOT A MUTIE, YOU SAY?
HMM. BIG STRONG FELLA LIKE THAT--BE A BIG HELP FOR THE HUMAN RESISTANCE.
C'MON, LET'S GET YOU UNDERGROUND, BEFORE ANY SENTINEL PATROLS SPOT YOU.

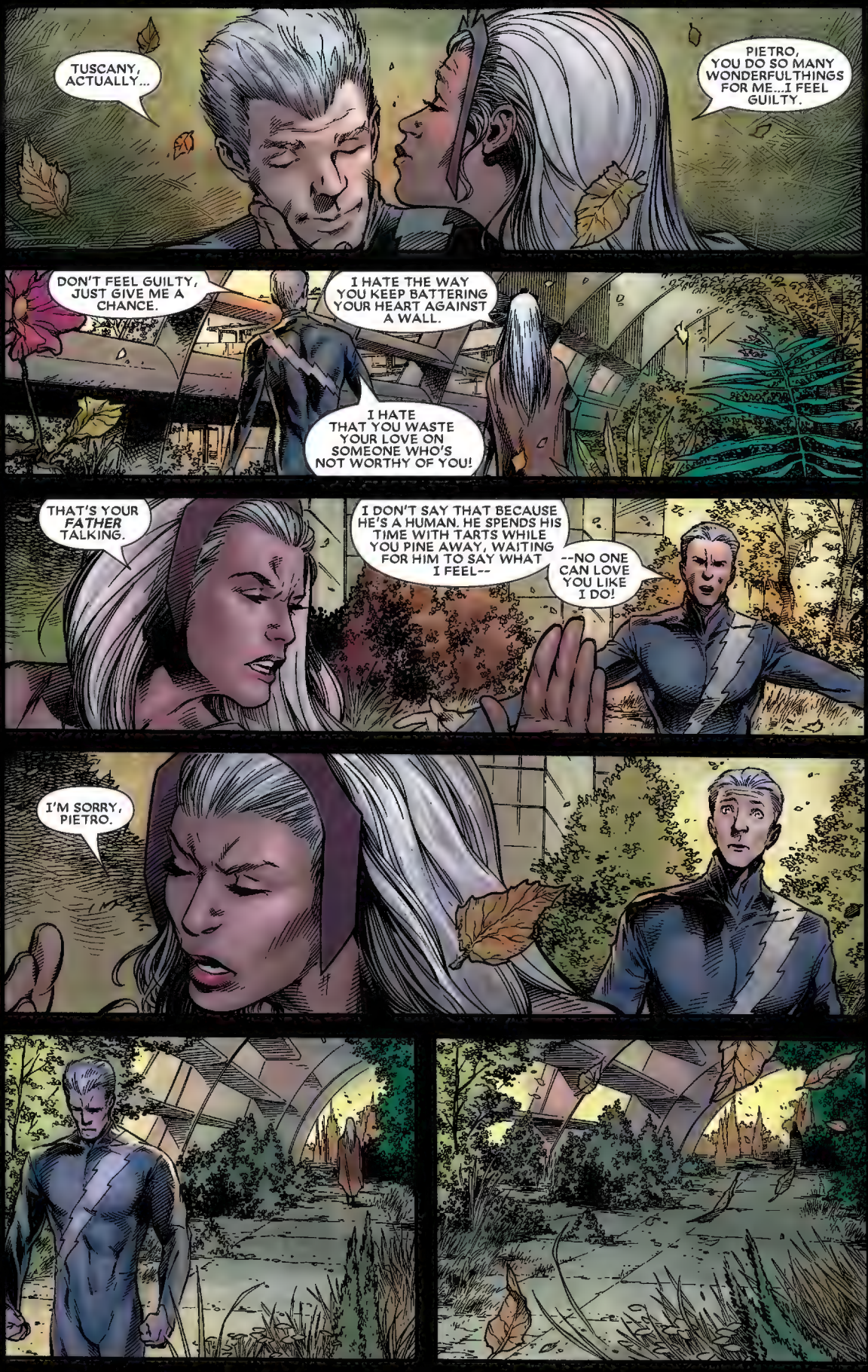
IT'S... PITCH BLACK IN HERE...CAN'T SEE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, MISTER.
MY NAME IS ALICIA... YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH ME.
THE END

BLACK PANTHER #7

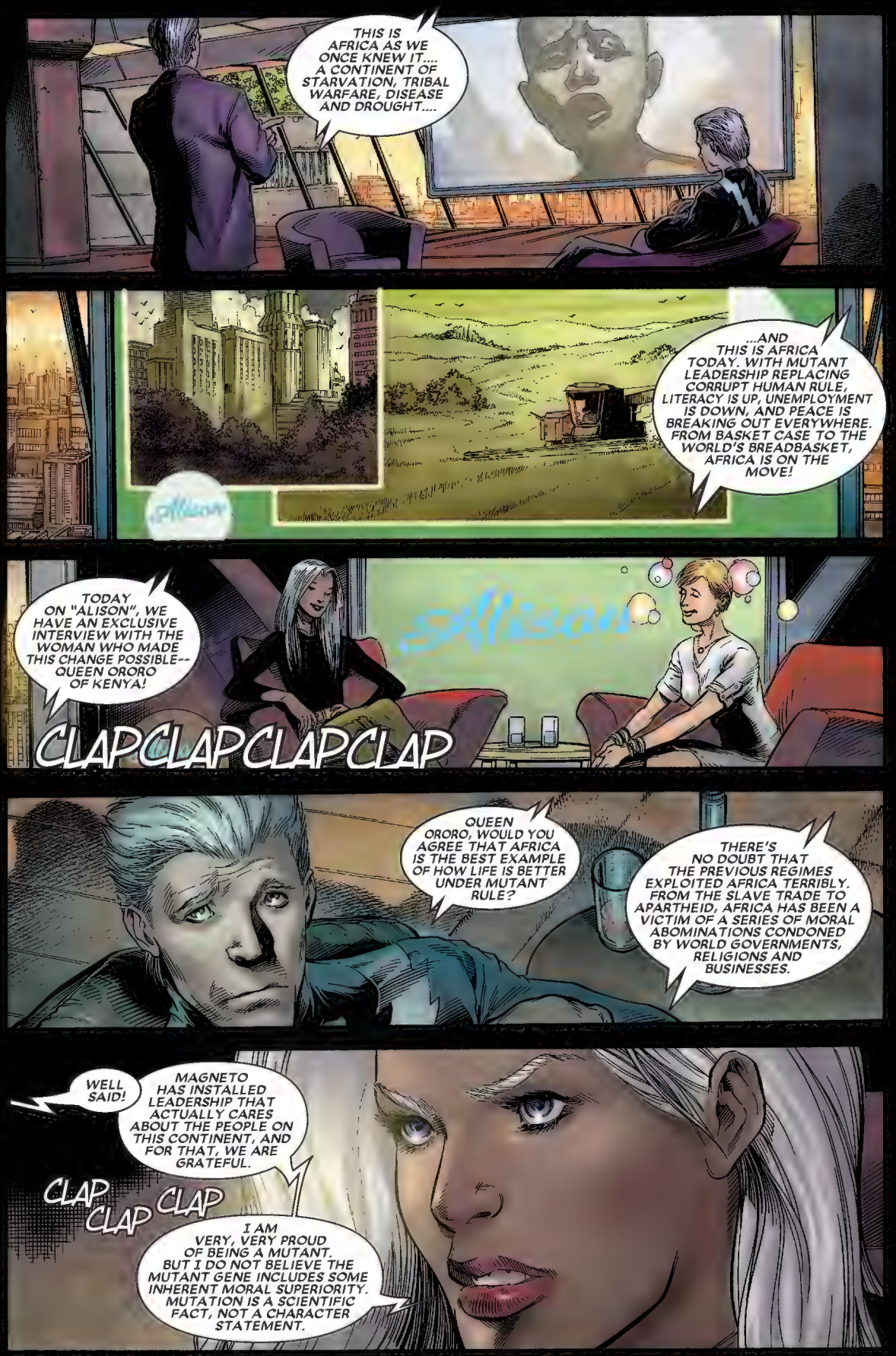
A United Africa — ruled over by Queen Ororo (a.k.a. Storm) and King T'Challa (a.k.a. the Black Panther) — has become an economic powerhouse, and a thorn in Magneto's side. You see, one of that continent's mutant rulers — Storm — has been speaking out against the persistence of supremacist notions in the mutant-controlled world... something Magneto simply can't abide.

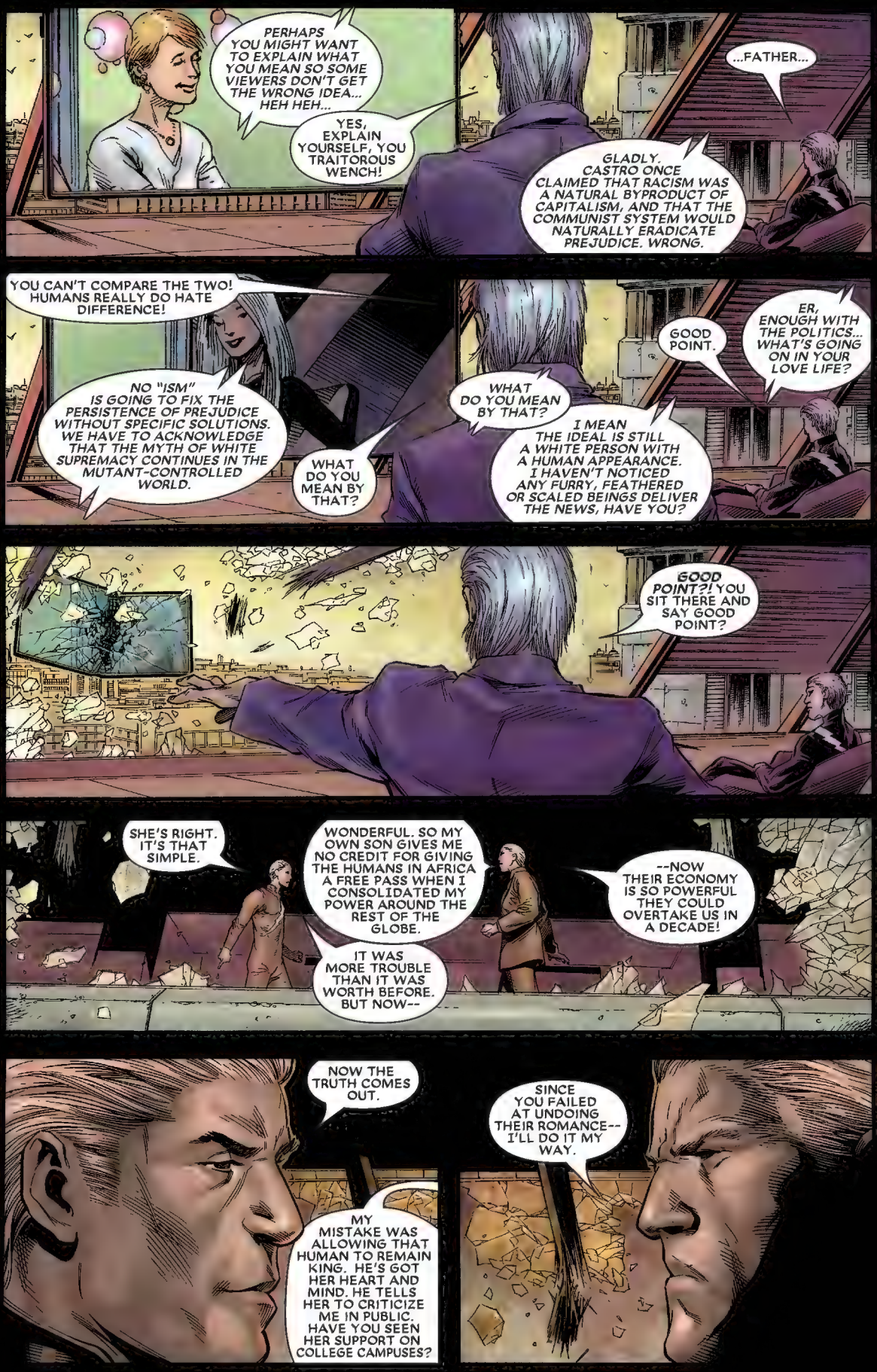

TSAVO WEST, KENYA
SOUL POWER IN THE HOUSE OF M

DING
PIETRO! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
ORORO, I...OH MY GOD...
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING... YOU'RE JUST... BREATHTAKING....
OH, AREN'T YOU SWEET! BUT YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO TELL ME THAT.
WELL, SORT OF, YES. I WAS IN ITALY, THINKING OF YOU, AND WONDERING IF IT WERE HOT HERE...
...AND IF YOU MIGHT LIKE AN ICE CREAM CONE.
HAND-DELIVERED FROM ROME?!


TUSCANY, ACTUALLY...
PIETRO, YOU DO SO MANY WONDERFULTHINGS FOR ME...I FEEL GUILTY.
DON'T FEEL GUILTY, JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE.
I HATE THE WAY YOU KEEP BATTERING YOUR HEART AGAINST A WALL.
I HATE THAT YOU WASTE YOUR LOVE ON SOMEONE WHO'S NOT WORTHY OF YOU!
THAT'S YOUR FATHER TALKING.
I DON'T SAY THAT BECAUSE HE'S A HUMAN. HE SPENDS HIS TIME WITH TARTS WHILE YOU PINE AWAY, WAITING FOR HIM TO SAY WHAT I FEEL--
--NO ONE CAN LOVE YOU LIKE I DO!
I'M SORRY, PIETRO.

MAGNETO'S PALACE, GENOSHA
DIDN'T I TEACH YOU ANYTHING ABOUT WOMEN?
QUITE FRANKLY, NO. I NEVER SAW YOU WITH OUR MOTHER, AND YOUR ADULT RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN NOTHING TO EMULATE. ATTRACTING WOMEN WHEN YOU'RE THE RULER OF THE PLANET DOESN'T TAKE A LOT OF SEDUCTIVE SKILLS.
TOUCHÉ, SON. BUT YOUR INABILITY TO WOO ORORO WILL CAUSE BIGGER PROBLEMS THAN YOUR BROKEN HEART.
DID YOU SEE HER ON TV YESTERDAY?


THIS IS AFRICA AS WE ONCE KNEW IT.... A CONTINENT OF STARVATION, TRIBAL WARFARE, DISEASE AND DROUGHT....
...AND THIS IS AFRICA TODAY. WITH MUTANT LEADERSHIP REPLACING CORRUPT HUMAN RULE, LITERACY IS UP, UNEMPLOYMENT IS DOWN, AND PEACE IS BREAKING OUT EVERYWHERE. FROM BASKET CASE TO THE WORLD'S BREADBASKET, AFRICA IS ON THE MOVE!
TODAY ON "ALISON", WE HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE WOMAN WHO MADE THIS CHANGE POSSIBLE-- QUEEN ORORO OF KENYA!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
QUEEN ORORO, WOULD YOU AGREE THAT AFRICA IS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF HOW LIFE IS BETTER UNDER MUTANT RULE?
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE PREVIOUS REGIMES EXPLOITED AFRICA TERRIBLY. FROM THE SLAVE TRADE TO APARTHEID, AFRICA HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF A SERIES OF MORAL ABOMINATIONS CONDONED BY WORLD GOVERNMENTS, RELIGIONS AND BUSINESSES.
WELL SAID!
MAGNETO HAS INSTALLED LEADERSHIP THAT ACTUALLY CARES ABOUT THE PEOPLE ON THIS CONTINENT, AND FOR THAT, WE ARE GRATEFUL.
CLAP CLAP CLAP
I AM VERY, VERY PROUD OF BEING A MUTANT. BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THE MUTANT GENE INCLUDES SOME INHERENT MORAL SUPERIORITY. MUTATION IS A SCIENTIFIC FACT, NOT A CHARACTER STATEMENT.


PERHAPS YOU MIGHT WANT TO EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEAN SO SOME VIEWERS DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA... HEH HEH...
YES, EXPLAIN YOURSELF, YOU TRAITOROUS WENCH!
...FATHER...
GLADLY. CASTRO ONCE CLAIMED THAT RACISM WAS A NATURAL BYPRODUCT OF CAPITALISM, AND THAT THE COMMUNIST SYSTEM WOULD NATURALLY ERADICATE PREJUDICE. WRONG.
YOU CAN'T COMPARE THE TWO! HUMANS REALLY DO HATE DIFFERENCE!
NO "ISM" IS GOING TO FIX THE PERSISTENCE OF PREJUDICE WITHOUT SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS. WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE MYTH OF WHITE SUPREMACY CONTINUES IN THE MUTANT-CONTROLLED WORLD.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
GOOD POINT.
ER, ENOUGH WITH THE POLITICS... WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR LOVE LIFE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
I MEAN THE IDEAL IS STILL A WHITE PERSON WITH A HUMAN APPEARANCE. I HAVEN'T NOTICED ANY FURRY, FEATHERED OR SCALED BEINGS DELIVER THE NEWS, HAVE YOU?
GOOD POINT?! YOU SIT THERE AND SAY GOOD POINT?
SHE'S RIGHT. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
WONDERFUL. SO MY OWN SON GIVES ME NO CREDIT FOR GIVING THE HUMANS IN AFRICA A FREE PASS WHEN I CONSOLIDATED MY POWER AROUND THE REST OF THE GLOBE.
IT WAS MORE TROUBLE THAN IT WAS WORTH BEFORE. BUT NOW--
--NOW THEIR ECONOMY IS SO POWERFUL THEY COULD OVERTAKE US IN A DECADE!
NOW THE TRUTH COMES OUT.
MY MISTAKE WAS ALLOWING THAT HUMAN TO REMAIN KING. HE'S GOT HER HEART AND MIND. HE TELLS HER TO CRITICIZE ME IN PUBLIC. HAVE YOU SEEN HER SUPPORT ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES?
SINCE YOU FAILED AT UNDOING THEIR ROMANCE-- I'LL DO IT MY WAY.

WAKANDA
YOU ARE NOT MY HUSBAND.
AND EVEN IF I WERE, I'M NOT SURE I COULD STOP YOU. ALL I'M SAYING IS THE WAR WITH MAGNETO WILL COME SOON ENOUGH. LET'S CONFINE OUR CONFLICT WITH THEM TO THE STOCK MARKET FOR NOW.
T'CHALLA: THE RELUCTANT WARRIOR?
ONCE IT STARTS, IT WILL QUICKLY ESCALATE TO A WORLD WAR. WE WILL WIN... BUT INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL DIE.
CONFIDENT BUT SENSITIVE. NO WONDER THE LADIES LOVE YOU.
WHICH ONE IS IT TONIGHT? MONICA LYNNE?
ORORO--
OR IS IT SHANNA, THE SHE-DEVIL?
ACTUALLY, I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE DOING TONIGHT.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR PLAYBOYS. I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR HAREM.
ORORO, YOU KNOW I ONLY CARE ABOUT YOU. WHEN YOU'RE FLYING NUDE IN A THUNDERCLOUD-- DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT ME?
GOODNIGHT, T'CHALLA!

OH, ORORO. IT'S LIKE THAT SONG FROM AMERICA:
"YOU GOT ME STRAIGHT TRIPPIN', BOO."
HUGHK!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST SHOT ME LIKE THAT.
WHY NOT? I'M A VERY GOOD SHOT.

I MEAN, I COULD BE A DIPLOMAT... CONDUCTING BACK DOOR NEGOTIATIONS...
YOU DON'T HIRE A MERCENARY NAMED "SABRETOOTH" FOR THAT JOB.
ANY MESSAGE FROM MAGNETO?
BEYOND "MAKE SURE HE'S DEAD"? NO.
BLAM BLAM
THE MESSAGE--
UGH! --IS FOR ORORO. BUT IT REQUIRES--
--CUTTING OFF YOUR HEAD!

HURCK!
THUD
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
AAAARRRGHH!!
DAMN. I MISSED. WELL, THAT'S BRAIN DAMAGE FOR YA.
HOLD ON, IT'LL TAKE ME A SECOND TO HEAL.

OOOF!
CRACK
OKAY. NOW, WHERE... WERE...WE?
CRACK

WHEN DID THIS ARRIVE?
TODAY. THE PANTHER MUST HAVE USED THE TRANSPORTER WE GAVE SABRETOOTH.
DID HE SEND THE BODY BACK, TOO?
NO. APPARENTLY THE PANTHER FAVORS BREVITY IN HIS MESSAGES.
NOW THINGS ARE GOING TO GET NASTY....

...NOW THAT THINGS ARE GOING TO GET NASTY, THE NEXT SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IS PRETTY OBVIOUS. WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT EVENTUALLY MAGNETO WOULD RESCIND HIS PROMISE TO NOT INVADE OUR RESPECTIVE MONARCHIES. HE'LL START HERE, THEN EVENTUALLY PICK US OFF ONE BY ONE. THE QUESTION IS, DO WE STAND TOGETHER, OR HANG SEPARATELY?
THE COUNCIL OF KINGS
WE ARE SUPPOSED TO RISK OUR KINGDOMS, EXPEND OUR RESOURCES ON YOUR BEHALF BECAUSE OF SOME SUPPOSED ALLIANCE BASED ON--WHAT--RACE? THAT'S FINE FOR YOU AND ORORO, AND PERHAPS NAMOR AND SUNFIRE IF THEY SUBSCRIBE TO SOME BROADER NOTION OF "ETHNIC UNITY"...BUT MAGNETO IS OF GYPSY STOCK, LIKE MYSELF. SHOULD I BE A RACE TRAITOR?
DON'T BE A FOOL, DOOM. YOU AND T'CHALLA HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN ANYONE ELSE HERE.
DOOM IS NO ONE'S FOOL. WOMAN. YOU'RE LUCKY THIS MEETING IS VIRTUAL.
AND HUMAN OR NOT--DOOM STANDS ALONE!
BOYS SHEATHED IN METAL SHOULDN'T THREATEN STORM GODDESSES.
DOOM HAS MADE HIS DECISION.
WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU SAY?

CAIRO, EGYPT
HOW'S THE PYRAMID-BUILDING GOING?
I WAS WONDERING WHEN I WOULD HEAR FROM YOU.
I HAD TO RETEACH THE STUPID HUMANS EVERYTHING THEY FORGOT, BUT THE OLD SCHOOL WAYS ARE THE BEST!
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD YOUR EMPIRE BEYOND NORTH AFRICA, APOCALYPSE -- HERE IS YOUR CHANCE.
THE HUMAN?
YES...BUT LEAVE ORORO ALONE FOR NOW. I THINK THIS LESSON WILL BRING HER TO HEEL.
CONSIDER IT DONE.
YOU KNOW HE PLOTS AGAINST YOU.
THAT ARROGANT FOOL WILL HAVE TO BE PUT DOWN ONE DAY, TO BE SURE. BUT FOR NOW HE'S THE RIGHT-SIZED SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM.

ARRIVING IN WAKANDA IN 15 MINUTES, LORD APOCALYPSE.
BE ON THE ALERT FOR ANY POTENTIAL ATTACKS.
LIKE THIS SUDDEN CHANGE IN WEATHER, SIRE?
PULL UP! PULL UP!
OUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IS BEING SHORTED OUT, SIRE.
OH NO.... ARE WE IN A TORNADO?

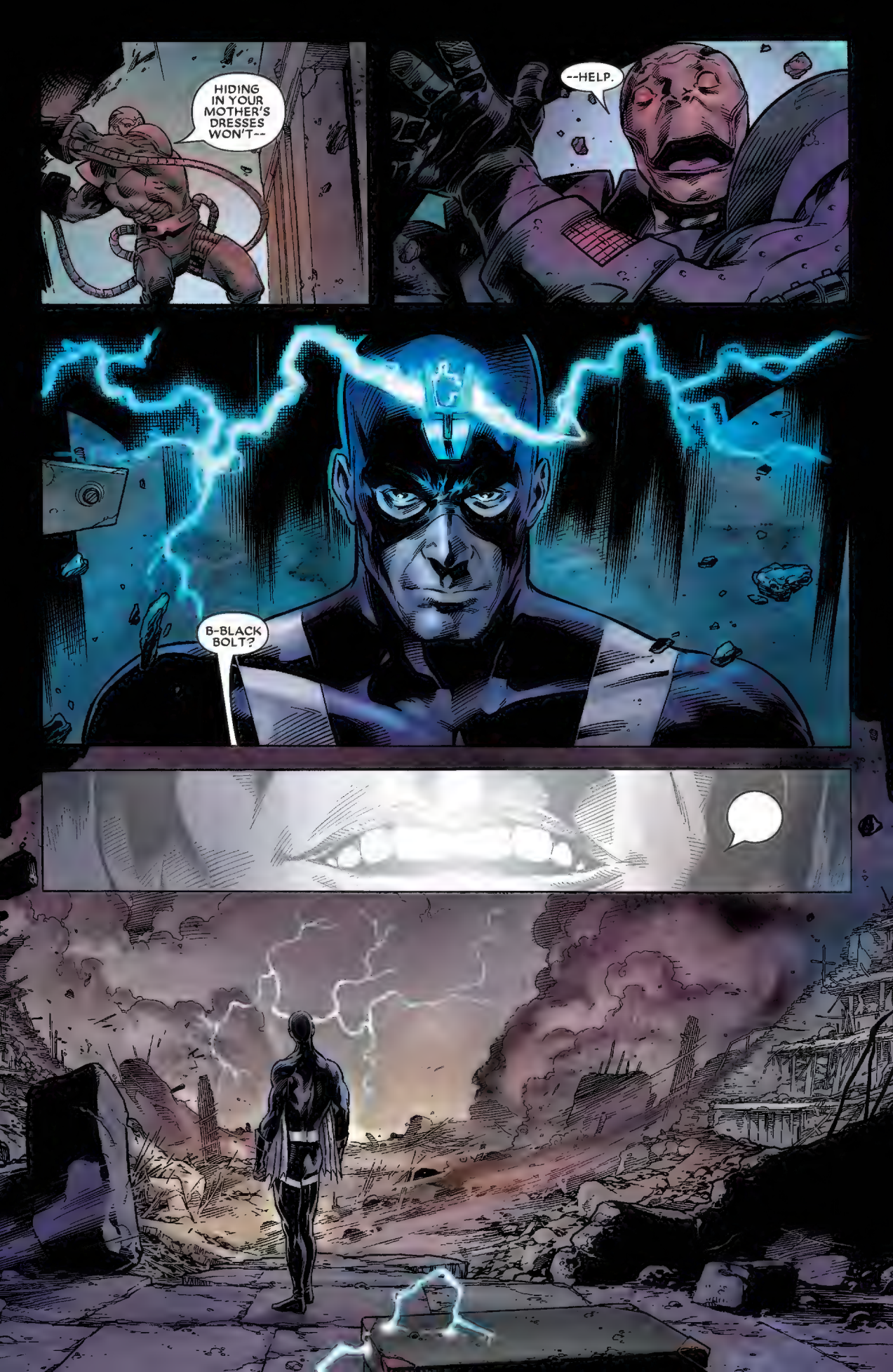
THE BACKUP TEAM IS ON ITS WAY, SIRE-- GLGLPPP!
YOU ARE THE LAPDOG OF MEN WITHOUT HONOR.
IMPERIUS REX!

ARE YOU DROWNED YET? I HOPE NOT... I HAVE MORE FRUSTRATION TO VENT--
SHUT. UP.
YOU GREW GILLS--
UUUUUHAA!!

FREEZE, NAMOR!
NOW THAT PRINCE TUNA IS ON ICE...
...LET'S CHECK THE FORECAST AND SEE IF IT'S SNOW OR RAIN!

WHAT THE--?
OH MAN, THAT IS UNCOOL...
NICELY DONE, SUNFIRE. AFTER YOU FINISH WITH HIM, RETRIEVE AND UNTHAW NAMOR. I'M LOOKING FOR ANY MORE OF APOCALYPSE'S HORSEMEN.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU ATTACK THE WOMAN, AND I'LL GET SUNFIRE.
ARE YOU CRAZY? THESE PEOPLE ARE COMPLETELY OUT OF OUR WEIGHT CLASS. I SAY WE WAIT UNTIL APOCALYPSE SURFACES, THEN WE MAKE A MOVE.
WHY DID YOU EVEN VOLUNTEER FOR THIS MISSION?
I'VE GOT A LITTLE P.R. PROBLEM...SOME GIRL RELEASED A VIDEOTAPE OF ME AND HER...
...ANYWAY, I WANT TO BE A HERO...BUT NOT A DEAD ONE!

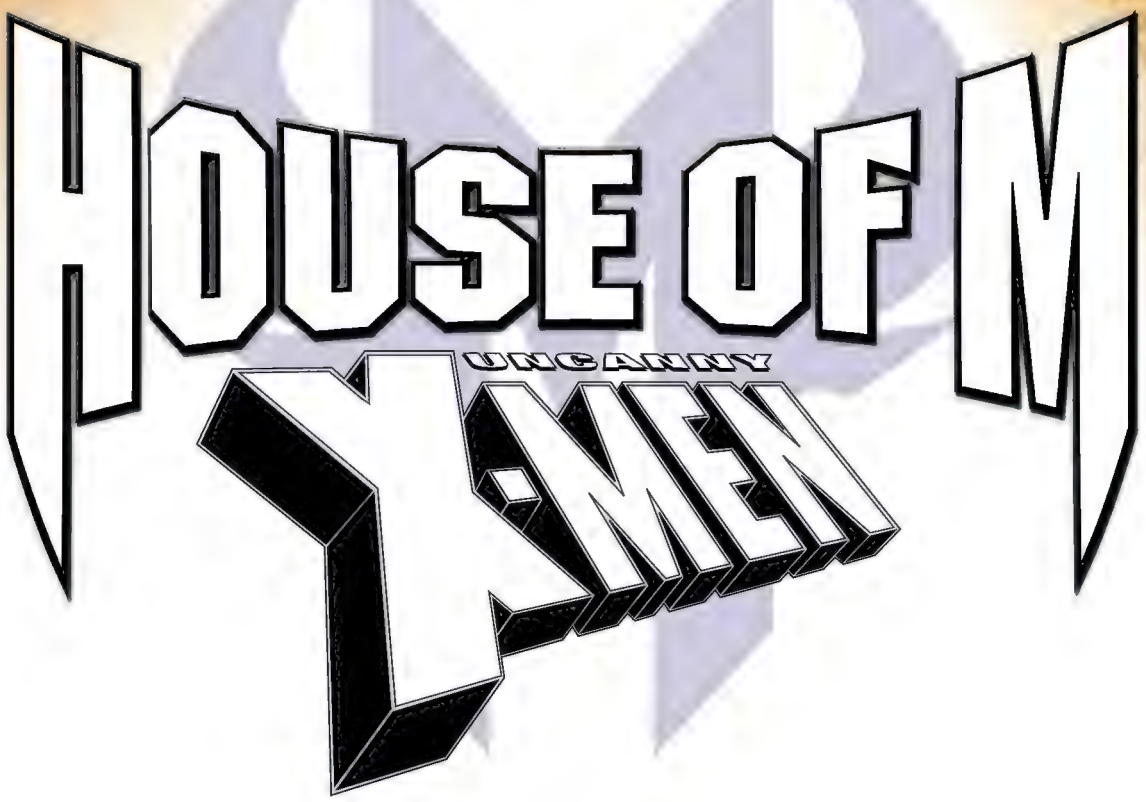
THE PANTHER'S CASTLE
HERE HE COMES!
ORDERS ARE TO FALL BACK! EVACUATE!
T'CHALLA WHAT'S THE--
WAIT-- WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU!
I THOUGHT HE HAD DUMPED YOU!
HOW MANY OTHER GIRLS ARE IN THIS PALACE?
WHERE ARE YOU, TCHALLA?
AH, THERE YOU ARE! THANKS FOR NOT HIDING! OUT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR COURAGE, I'LL MAKE IT QUICK.
!


HIDING IN YOUR MOTHER'S DRESSES WON'T--
--HELP.
B-BLACK BOLT?

WHEW...EVEN WITH THE VIBRANIUM ABSORBING THE SOUND WAVES...THAT WAS LOUD!
GOOD THING YOU DON'T TALK ON THE CONFERENCE CALLS!
A LOT OF REBUILDING AHEAD. BUT THANKS TO YOU, BLACK BOLT, I STILL HAVE A KINGDOM.
DID IT FEEL GOOD TO SPEAK... IF ONLY A SYLLABLE?
WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT?
AND IF YOU SAY "I TOLD YOU SO..."
I DIDN'T SAY A WORD.
THE END

UNCANNY X-MEN #462

The SCARLET WITCH has lost her mind and has used her mutant power to alter reality to transform the world into a mutant utopia, ruled from Genosha by her father, MAGNETO.



Welcome to the House of M.

THE TEAM WAS IN EAST AFRICA.
MYSTERIOUS MODERN-DAY PIRATES CALLING THEMSELVES THE WEAPONEERS HAD ATTEMPTED A HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF THE COASTAL NATION OF ZANZIBAR, AND THE X-MEN CAME TO STOP THEM.
THEY WERE WINNING, TOO...
...RIGHT UP TO THE POINT WHERE THEIR WORLD CAME TO AN END.
THAT FLASH--
--DID SOMEONE DEPLOY A NUKE?
MARVEL GIRL-- PSYLOCKE--RAISE YOUR TEKE-SHIELDS!
MY GOD-- HAS THE SUN EXPLODED?
EVERYTHING'S FADING AWAY!
RACHEL, TAKE MY HAND!
I'M STILL SOLID.
BETSY, I'VE LOST THEIR THOUGHTS!
I CAN'T SENSE ANYONE!

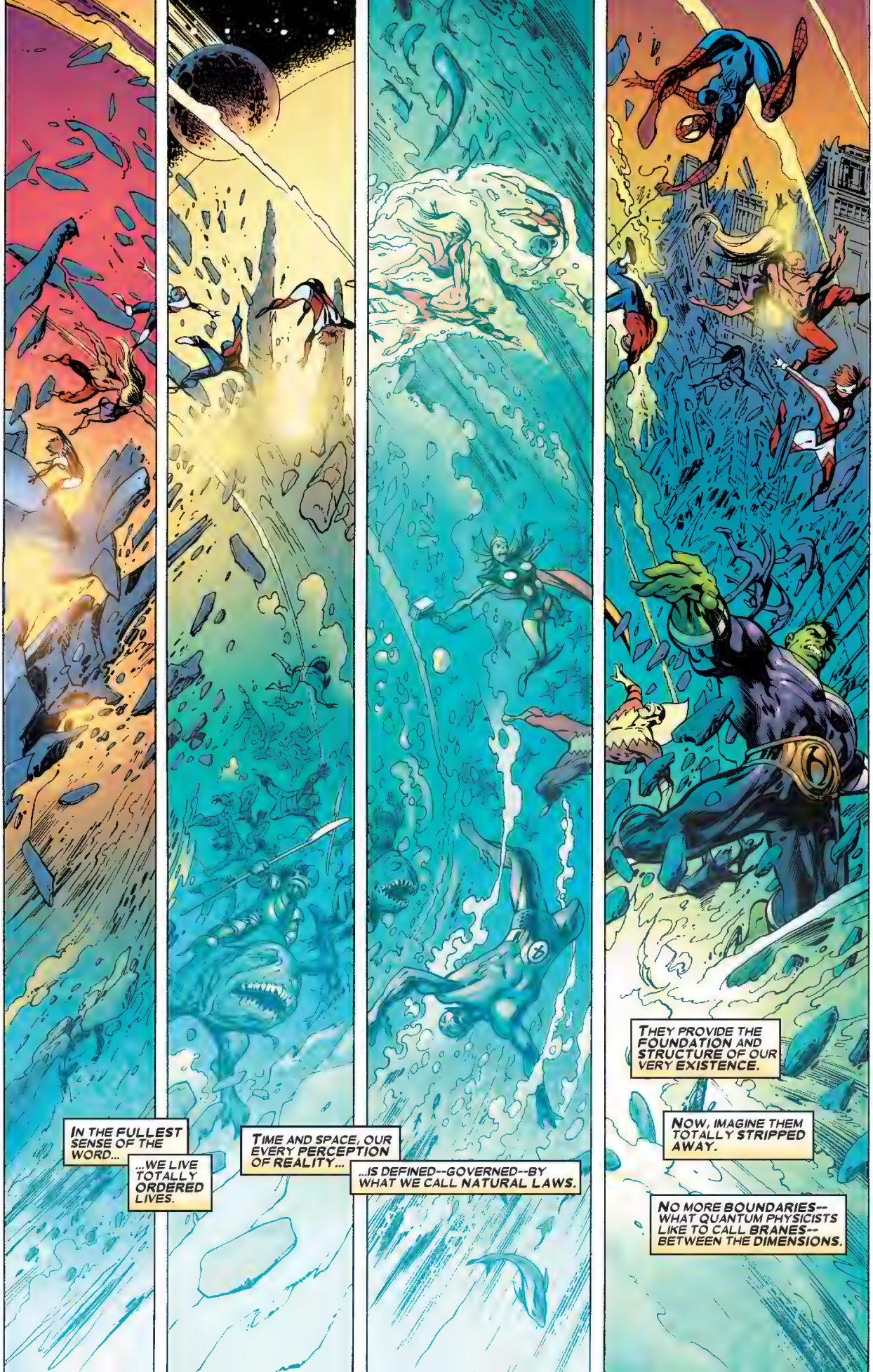
STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

Season of the Witch

AND WHAT IS THIS?
I SWEAR, IF I'M DEAD AGAIN--!
WAIT, I KNOW THIS PLACE!
AT LEAST...I THINK I DO.
DON'T KEEP US IN SUSPENSE, DARLING.
IT...IT COULD BE THE WHITE-HOT ROOM.
WHICH IS--?
THE VERY CORE OF CREATION ITSELF.
THE HEART OF THE PHOENIX.
OH, FOR GOODNESS SAKES!
DOES EVERYTHING HAVE TO REVOLVE AROUND THAT BLOODY BIRD?!
CONSIDERING THE ALTERNATIVE, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO COMPLAIN?
I SO WANT TO HIT SOMETHING.
SO-- WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
HAVEN'T A CLUE.

OTHERWORLD
THINK OF IT AS ONE OF THE PRIMARY INTERSECTIONS OF REALITY.
FROM HERE, YOU CAN ACCESS ANY POINT ALONG THE SIDEREAL STRING THAT TIES CREATION TOGETHER.
BRIAN!
BRIAN BRADDOCK (FORMERLY CAPTAIN BRITAIN OF EARTH-616), CURRENT RULER OF OTHERWORLD, RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING ORDER ACROSS THE TIMESTREAM.
MEGGAN, HIS WIFE.
MEG--WHAT'S WRONG?!
IT'S OVER.
OVER OVER OVER DONE DONE DONE ASHES ASHES DUST DUST DUST
HUSH, I'M HERE.
BRIAN, ARE YOU--?!
I'M FINE, LINDA.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WITH RESPECT, MY LORD, THAT SCREAM WAS HEARD BY EVERY MEMBER OF THE CAPTAIN BRITAIN CORPS.
IT IS THE END, MY LOVE.
OF ALL THAT IS!
OF ALL THAT WILL EVER BE!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
SHE'S AN ELEMENTAL, BRIAN...
...ATTUNED TO THE TIMESTREAM IN WAYS WE CAN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE.
YOU GET EARTHQUAKES HERE?
ABSOLUTELY NOT, FLIGHT LEADER.
WE CAN SEE THINGS BEST FROM MY TOWER.
I'M SORRY, BRIAN.
I WAS SO HOPING-- PRAYING WITH ALL MY HEART...
...THAT IT WAS JUST A BAD DREAM.


IN THE FULLEST SENSE OF THE WORD...
...WE LIVE TOTALLY ORDERED LIVES.
TIME AND SPACE, OUR EVERY PERCEPTION OF REALITY...
...IS DEFINED--GOVERNED--BY WHAT WE CALL NATURAL LAWS.
THEY PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION AND STRUCTURE OF OUR VERY EXISTENCE.
NOW, IMAGINE THEM TOTALLY STRIPPED AWAY.
NO MORE BOUNDARIES--WHAT QUANTUM PHYSICISTS LIKE TO CALL BRANES--BETWEEN THE DIMENSIONS.

NO MORE COHERENCE TO CAUSALITY.
ONLY A PRIMAL CHAOS, BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF ANY SENTIENCE, NO MATTER HOW GRANDIOSE ITS OPINION OF ITSELF.
AND THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING...

AT THE CENTERPOINT OF CREATION IS THE STARLIGHT CITADEL OF BRIAN'S ULTIMATE BOSS...
...ROMA, THE CELESTIAL GUARDIAN.
HER POWER IS ALL THAT HER TITLE IMPLIES, AND MORE.
DOESN'T MATTER.
DOESN'T SAVE HER.

HER GREAT HALL WOULD FIT ENTIRE PLANETS, WITH ROOM TO SPARE.
BUT WHEN HER CITADEL FALLS, THAT IMPOSSIBLY VAST SPACE IS SUDDENLY AND FEARFULLY CROWDED, WORSE THAN RUSH HOUR...
...WITH AN INCONCEIVABLE VARIETY AND NUMBER OF SPECIES, AS ALL THE DIMENSIONS THERE ARE SUDDENLY CRASH TOGETHER INTO ONE.
NOTHING MAKES SENSE ANYMORE.
ESPECIALLY NOT WHO'S SUPPOSED TO STAY DEAD.
I SAY!
THAT WAS FUN!
NOT SO MUCH THAT ONE MINDS BEING DEAD--
--(WELL, ACTUALLY, I MIND THAT QUITE A LOT)--
--BUT THAT IT'S TAKEN SO DASHED LONG TO FIND ME WAY BACK!

NOT AT ALL CONSIDERATE.
STRANGE MOB O' JOHNNIES.
SEEMS T' ME WE WERE A BIT STRICTER ON IMMIGRATION IN MY DAY.
AND ESPECIALLY ON WHOM WE'D ADMIT TO THE BALLY CLUB.

AH, WELL-- HERE'S THE REASON WHY.
LET A WOMAN RUN THINGS, WHAT ELSE D'YOU EXPECT?

TIME, M'DEAR, FOR YOU TO GO.
?

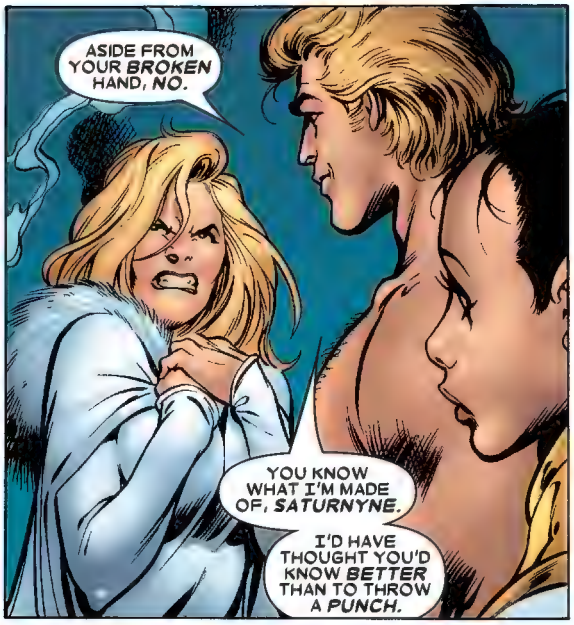
BLESS MY SOUL--THIS IS INTERESTING.
IF MEMORY SERVES, THE CREATURE I WAS FIGHTING HAD ONE O' THESE.

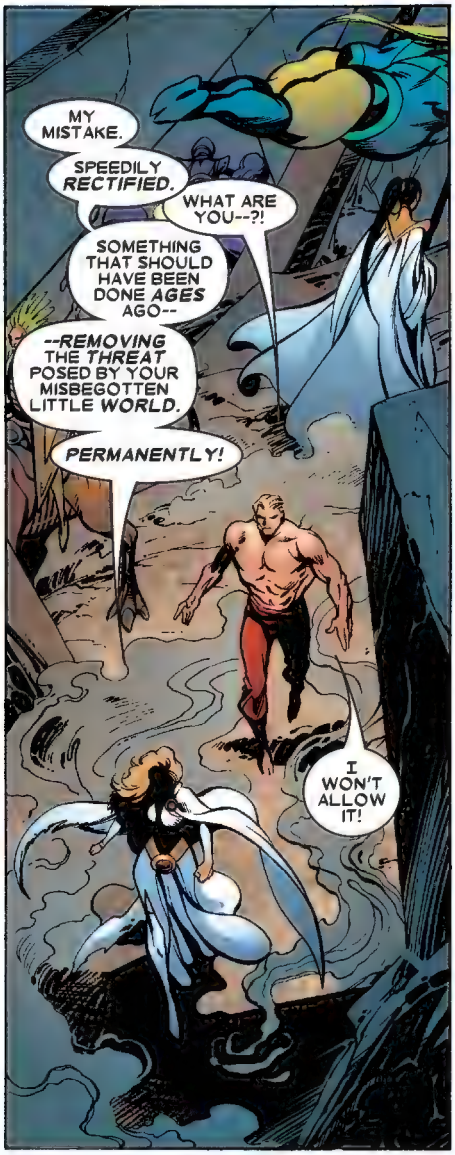
SHOT ME WITH IT.
AN' THEN RAN A FILAMENT THROUGH MY NOGGIN.
FRIED THE OLD GRAY MATTER TO-- A--CRISP!
JOKE'S ON HIM, SILLY BUGGER!
YOU'RE-- THE JASPERS!

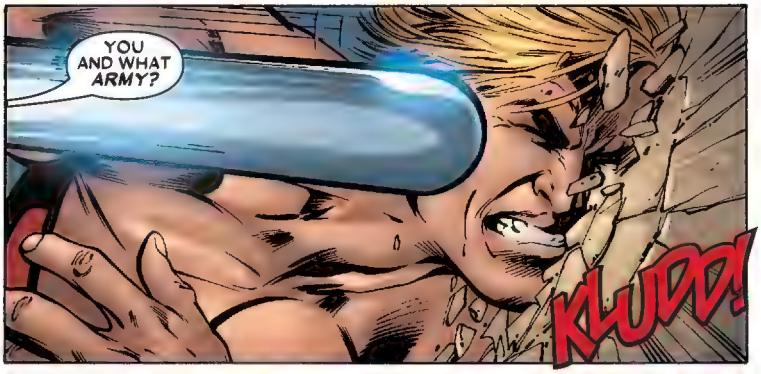
JAMES JASPERS, PRIME MINISTER OF ENGLAND AND OVERLORD OF THE OMNIVERSE!
NOT WHILE I LIVE.
PRECISELY.
'BYE, NOW!

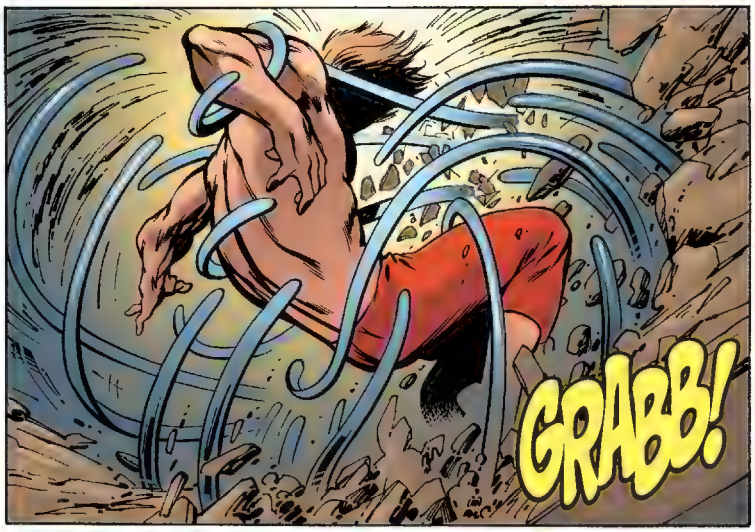
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY, MADMAN!
KRAK!
THOOM!
I THOUGHT THE FURY KILLED JASPERS.
THAT WAS IN A CAUSALITY THAT MADE SENSE.
HE AND HIS EXECUTIONER HAVE BECOME ONE.
SEPARATE, EACH WAS VIRTUALLY UNSTOPPABLE!
IF THEY'VE TRULY MERGED--!
IS THIS YOUR DOING, ROMA, ARE YOU PLAYING ANOTHER OF YOUR WRETCHED GAMES?
IT'S YOU WHO'VE DONE THIS, BRADDOCK--
--YOU AND YOUR HORRIBLE, BLOODY PLANET!

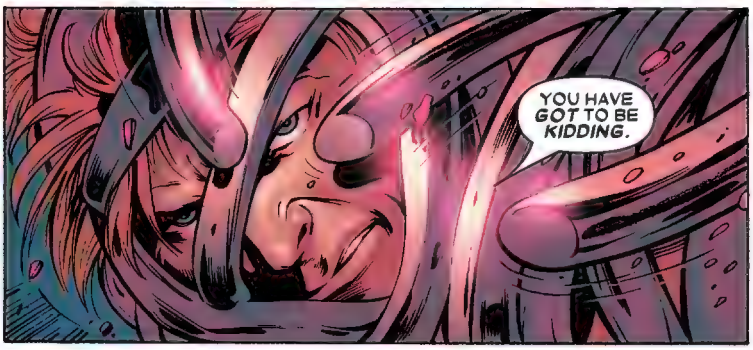
SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
KROM!


ASIDE FROM YOUR BROKEN HAND, NO.
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M MADE OF, SATURNYNE.
I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW BETTER THAN TO THROW A PUNCH.


MY MISTAKE.
SPEEDILY RECTIFIED.
WHAT ARE YOU--?!
SOMETHING THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE AGES AGO--
--REMOVING THE THREAT POSED BY YOUR MISBEGOTTEN LITTLE WORLD.
PERMANENTLY!
I WON'T ALLOW IT!


YOU AND WHAT ARMY?
KLUDD!


GRABB!


YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

POLARIS HAS HIM WRAPPED TIGHT.
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO FINISH HIM, PSYLOCKE!
THIS IS WHAT MY SISTER LOOKS LIKE AS A MAN?
WHO CARES-- JUST DO IT!
SATURNYNE'S TOLD US HOW DANGEROUS HE IS--
--DON'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE--!
RIGHT INSTINCT--
--BUT JUST A LITTLE BIT BEHIND THE CURVE.
I SUPPOSE, WITH ALL CROSSTIME TO CHOOSE FOR HER PERSONAL GUARD...
...I CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED AT THE RESULT.
SATURNYNE'S X-COM WEREN'T RECRUITED FOR OUR LOOKS ALONE, CAPTAIN.
KA-KOW!

THANKS FOR SETTIN' HIM UP, STORM!
AH'LL FINISH HIM!
YOU WANT MY POWER, ROGUE?
THEN TAKE IT ALL!
HE'S OVERLOADING HER!
ZAG!
GIVE UP, CAPTAIN! AGAINST US, YOU CAN'T WIN.
AND SHOULD I JUST WATCH--
--WHILE YOUR MISTRESS ANNIHILATES MY ENTIRE HOME DIMENSION?
TO SAFEGUARD ALL THE REST--
--WE CALL THAT A FAIR SACRIFICE.
I'VE TELEKINETICALLY LOCKED HIS MUSCLES, KIT!
ZAG!
KEEP POUNDING 'TIL HE DROPS!
ZAG!

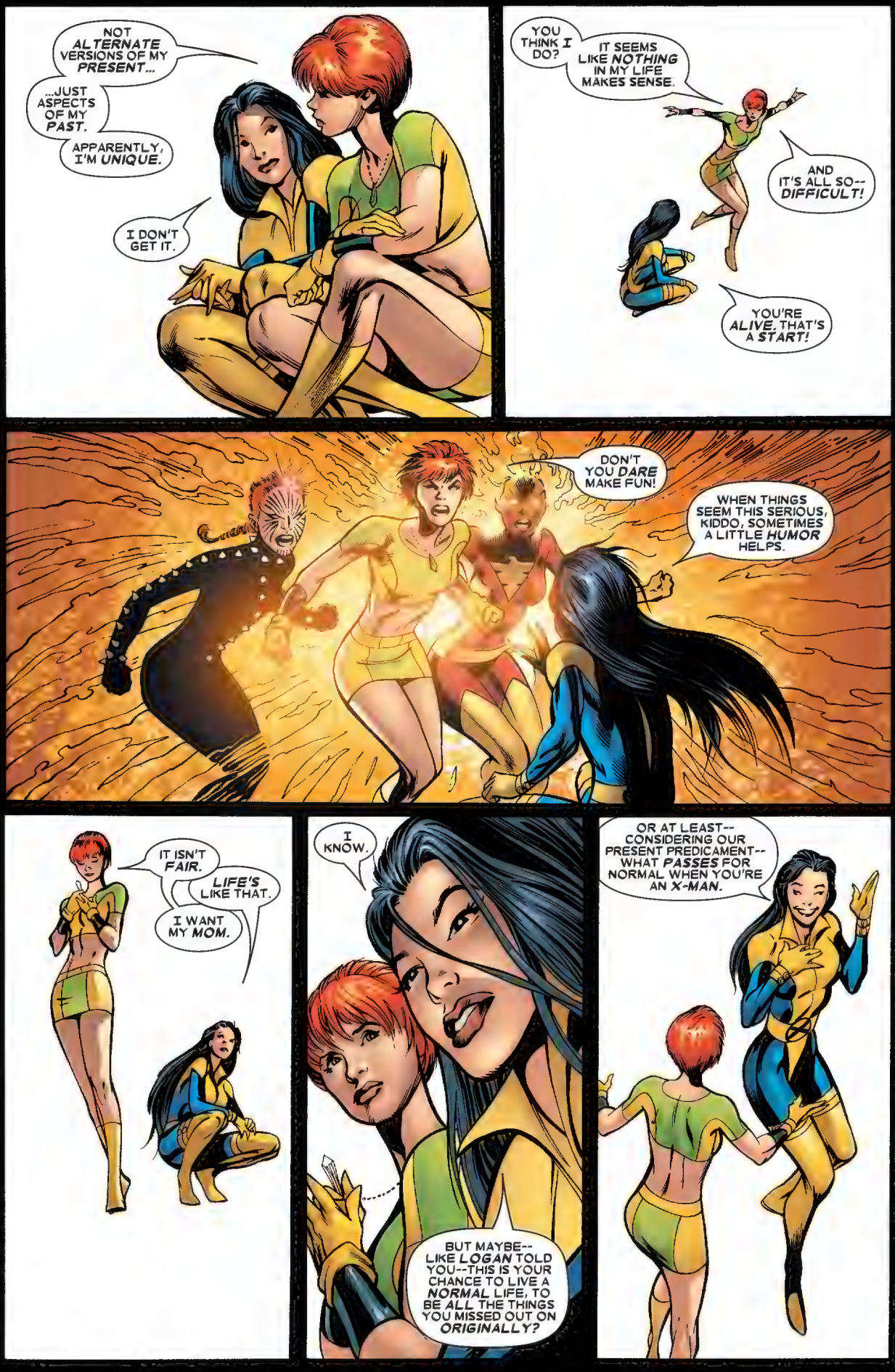
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!
ARRGH!
YOU FORGET, CAPTAIN. YOU STAND ALONE.
WHILE WE ARE A TEAM!
SATURNYNE'S EXECUTIVE ACTION COMMITTEE!
IT'S OVER, GUYS. HE'S DONE.
ARE YOU SURE, PSYLOCKE?
MY PSYCHIC KNIFE SHOCKED HIM INTO A FUGUE STATE.
HIS BRAIN'S CHECKED OUT FOR THE DURATION.
SURPRISE.
SIBLING IMMUNITY TO ONE ANOTHER'S POWERS...
...APPARENTLY APPLIES ACROSS THE DIMENSIONS.
BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME.

THANK THE MAKER, THE CELESTIAL NULLIFIER IS INTACT.
ALL I NEED IS A FEW SECONDS ...
...AND 'BRANE 616 WILL BE NO MORE.
SATURNYNE--
STOP!
FOR GOD'S SAKE, WOMAN--THINK OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
I'M DOING WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING!
CAN YOU POSSIBLY BE SO BLIND?
YOUR DIMENSION HAS BECOME A CANCER, BRINGING DEVASTATION TO 'BRANES ALL ALONG THE SIDEREAL STRING.
SPARING YOU CONDEMNS THE REST!
HELLL-LLLOOOO...
YOUR FANCY TOY--
I KNOW HIM!
MY OLDER BROTHER, JAMIE.
HE'S COMPLETELY MAD!
--SHE BROKE.
SMASH!
'BYE, NOW!
PLINK!
WE'RE DOOMED!

LATER—IN ROMA'S COUNCIL CHAMBER
WE ARE WITNESSING A TRANS-TEMPORAL TSUNAMI, ORIGINATING FROM EARTH 616.
APPARENTLY, THERE HAS BEEN AN ALTERATION OF GLOBAL PROPORTIONS THAT HAS BREACHED THE WALLS OF CAUSALITY.
THE LOCALIZED EFFECTS ARE SO SEVERE I AM UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN THE CAUSE.
YOU WANT ME TO DEAL WITH IT?
YOU HAVEN'T THE POWER.
BRIAN, MY CHAMPION, YOU ARE NEEDED FOR SOMETHING FAR MORE IMPORTANT.
UNTIL THE BREACH ITSELF IS SEALED, THIS CHAOS WAVE WILL KEEP EXPANDING ALONG THE SIDEREAL STRING...
...TO THE FARTHEST REACHES OF IMAGINATION, FROM THE SUNDERED PLANES TO THE SUBLIMITY--PERHAPS EVEN TO THE ASCENSION ITSELF.
LEFT UNCHECKED, ALL CREATION WILL MERGE INTO A SINGLE FORMLESS AMORPHOUS CONCEPTUAL BLOB.
THE VERY CONCEPTS OF ORDER AND CHAOS WILL SIMPLY...CEASE. IT WILL BE THE END OF RATIONAL EXISTENCE AS WE KNOW IT.
AND SINCE YOUR IDIOT SIBLING SMASHED THE NULLIFIER, WE CAN'T EXCISE THE INFECTED 'BRANE AND CAUTERIZE THE WOUND.
SO YOUR SOLUTION IS WHOLESALE GENOCIDE?
I SAY, COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER.

LOOK AT YOUR WIFE, BRIAN.
THAT'S BUT A TASTE OF OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE IF WE DON'T PREVAIL.
I'M NOT AS RUTHLESS AS YOU, SATURNYNE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MEGGAN. COME BACK TO NORMAL. LET ME BE YOUR ANCHOR.
BEFORE THIS IS DONE, MY CHAMPION, YOU MAY HAVE TO BE.
I CARE DEEPLY FOR YOU AND FOR YOUR WORLD. BUT I AM ALSO CHARGED WITH THE PROTECTION OF ALL-THAT-IS.
TO PRESERVE THE SURVIVAL--OF THE GREATER WHOLE...
...I WILL NOT HESITATE TO SACRIFICE EVEN THIS PART I SO CHERISH.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
I'LL RETURN YOU TO YOUR HOMEWORLD--BUT THERE IS A RISK YOU MAY BE SUBSUMED BY THE WARP THAT ENVELOPS THE EARTH.
YOU MAY FORGET YOUR PURPOSE.
YOU HAVE UNTIL THE NULLIFIER IS REPAIRED TO COMPLETE YOUR MISSION.
FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, LOCAL TIME. ABSOLUTE MAX.
THE BREACH FUELS THE CHAOS WAVE. IF IT IS NOT CLOSED, I MUST ACT.
YOU, YOUR WORLD, YOUR ENTIRE PLANE OF BEING--WILL BE ENDED.

THE WHITE-HOT ROOM
JUST LOOK AT ME!
I NEVER DREAMED THERE COULD BE SO MANY POSSIBILITIES!
FOR EVERY ALTERNATE EARTH, AN ALTERNATE BETSY BRADDOCK.
HOW UTTERLY DELICIOUS.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'VE HEARD OF SOME CROSS-TIME "RACHELS" THAT ARE THE OFFSPRING OF SCOTT AND JEAN...
...BUT NONE OF THEM ARE ME.
IN MY CASE, WHAT YOU SEE HERE IS ALL THERE IS.


NOT ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF MY PRESENT...
...JUST ASPECTS OF MY PAST.
APPARENTLY, I'M UNIQUE.
I DON'T GET IT.
YOU THINK I DO?
IT SEEMS LIKE NOTHING IN MY LIFE MAKES SENSE.
AND IT'S ALL SO-- DIFFICULT!
YOU'RE ALIVE. THAT'S A START!
DON'T YOU DARE MAKE FUN!
WHEN THINGS SEEM THIS SERIOUS, KIDDO, SOMETIMES A LITTLE HUMOR HELPS.
IT ISN'T FAIR.
LIFE'S LIKE THAT.
I WANT MY MOM.
I KNOW.
BUT MAYBE-- LIKE LOGAN TOLD YOU--THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE, TO BE ALL THE THINGS YOU MISSED OUT ON ORIGINALLY?
OR AT LEAST-- CONSIDERING OUR PRESENT PREDICAMENT-- WHAT PASSES FOR NORMAL WHEN YOU'RE AN X-MAN.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO-- CALM?
I WAS DEAD, GOT BETTER. CHANGES YOUR PERSPECTIVE.
JUST THINKING ABOUT ME AND MY MOM AND THE BEING-DEAD THING.
ALL THREE OF US HAVE THAT IN COMMON.
MY BROTHER, TOO.
BRIAN WAS KILLED, AND RESURRECTED.
BOTH BROTHERS, I THINK.
BETSY, THAT'S JAMIE!
YOU SEE HIM?
I'VE BEEN SEEING HIM FOR MONTHS NOW!
THAT'S ENOUGH DOWNTIME, SWEETIES.
NO MORE REVELATIONS.
BACK TO THE SALT MINES.
WORLD NEEDS SAVING, YOU'RE JUST THE GALS TO DO IT!
I'VE GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO BIND YOUR LIVES AND FATES TOGETHER...
...BROKEN EVERY RULE THERE IS!
DON'T MAKE ME REGRET IT.

MISERABLE SODDING SACK OF UNREGENERATE POND-SCUM!
WHAT DID HE MEAN, BOUND US TOGETHER?
I'LL BE SURE TO ASK--
--AFTER I CUT OUT HIS HEART!
BETSY-- ISN'T THAT--?
BRADDOCK MANOR, MY ANCESTRAL HOME.
WE--WE'RE IN ENGLAND.
SOUNDS LIKE BRIAN'S THROWING A PARTY.
RACHEL-- THIS DOESN'T FEEL QUITE...
...RIGHT.
YOU THINK?
OH, BLOODY...

UNCANNY X-MEN #463

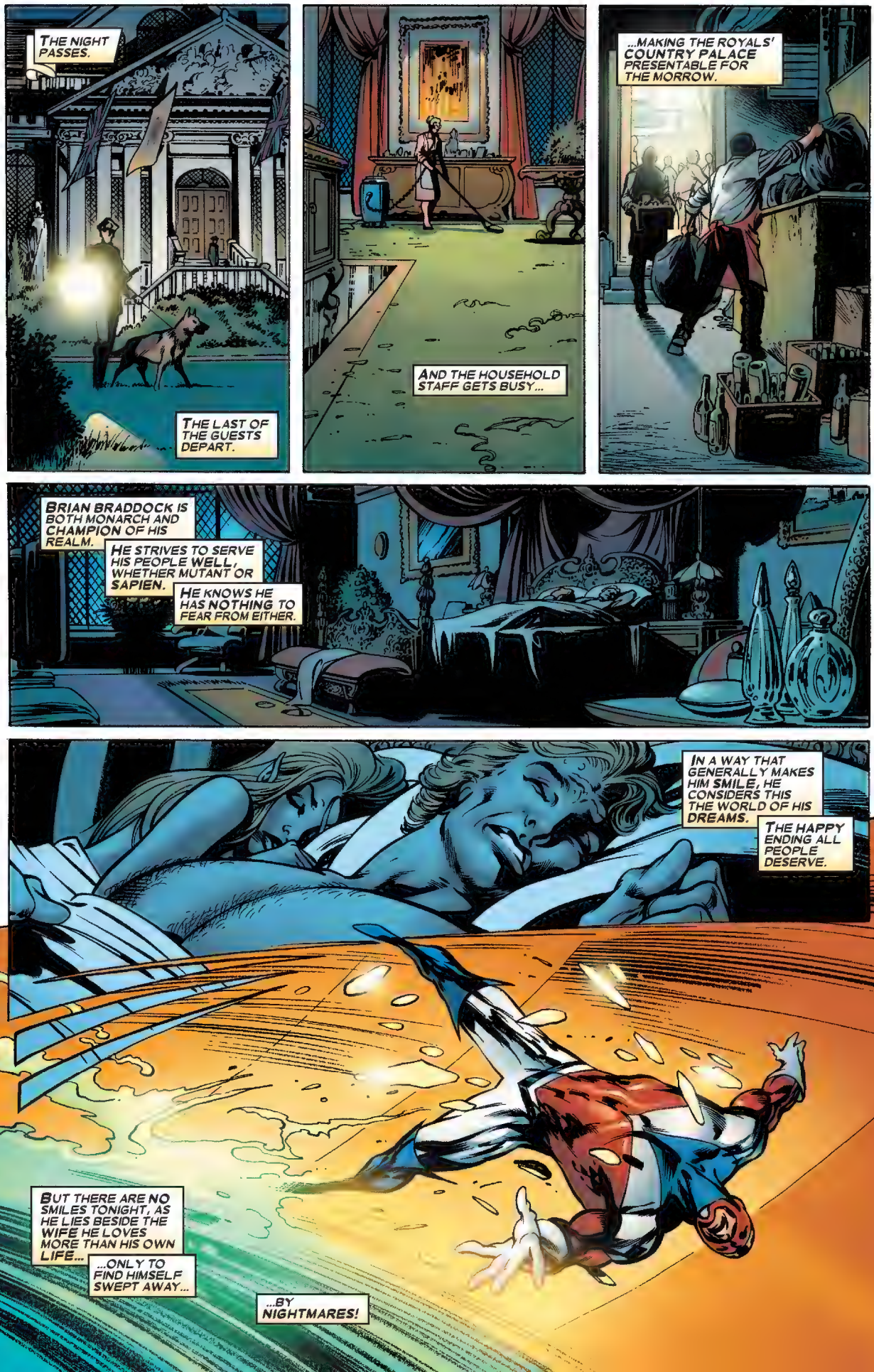
BRADDOCK MANOR, ENGLAND
BETSY, WHAT'S A SENTINEL DOING HERE?!
AND WHY HASN'T IT ATTACKED?!
WHO CARES?!
LET'S NOT GIVE IT THE CHANCE TO CHANGE ITS MIND.
USE YOUR TEKE TO SMASH ITS SENSOR ARRAY.
I'M STRONGER, I'LL TAKE CARE OF ITS CPU!
WHAT'S A SENTINEL DOING HERE?!
MY BROTHER'S THE MONARCH, RACHEL, PROBABLY EXTRA SECURITY LAID ON FOR THE PARTY.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I WONDER WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
FORGIVE ME, MILADY, BUT CONSIDERING THE LIFE WE LEAD, IT'S KINDA HARD TO STAY IN TOUCH.
EVEN WITH A TELEPATH FOR A COMPANION.
WHATEVER IT IS, THOUGH...

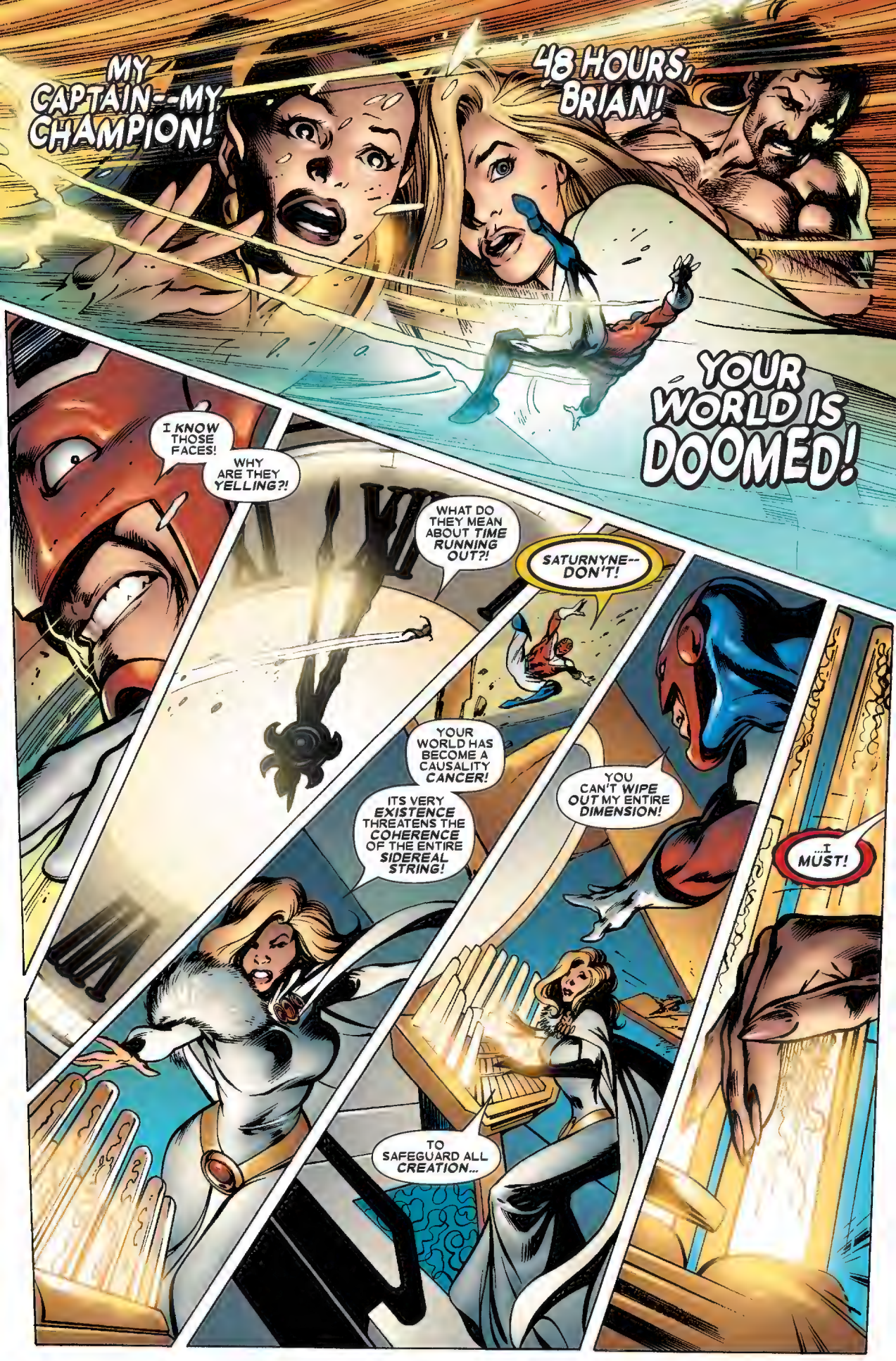
STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS THE UNCANNY X-MEN!
WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE!
Season of the Witch
PART 2 -OF- 4
...IT'S A REALLY BIG DEAL!

A BRIEF EXCHANGE AT THE DOOR ESTABLISHES THAT THE GALA IS IN HONOR OF MAGNETO, TO CELEBRATE BOTH HIS BIRTHDAY AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS RULE.
M'LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE THE HONOR TO PRESENT...
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS ELISABETH GLORIANA, PRINCESS-ROYAL OF THE REALM...
...AND THE LADY RACHEL GREY.
BOY, ARE WE DRESSED WRONG!
CAN YOU FIX IT, RACHEL?
SO THAT'S WHY YOU KEEP ME AROUND.
YOUR TEKE CAN SHATTER MOUNTAINS...
...BUT I'M THE ONE WITH THE FINE MOTOR CONTROL...
...TO REARRANGE THE UNSTABLE MOLECULES OF OUR CLOTHES...
...INTO SOMETHING MORE APPROPRIATE.
DON'T RUB IT IN.
BETSY?
BRIAN!

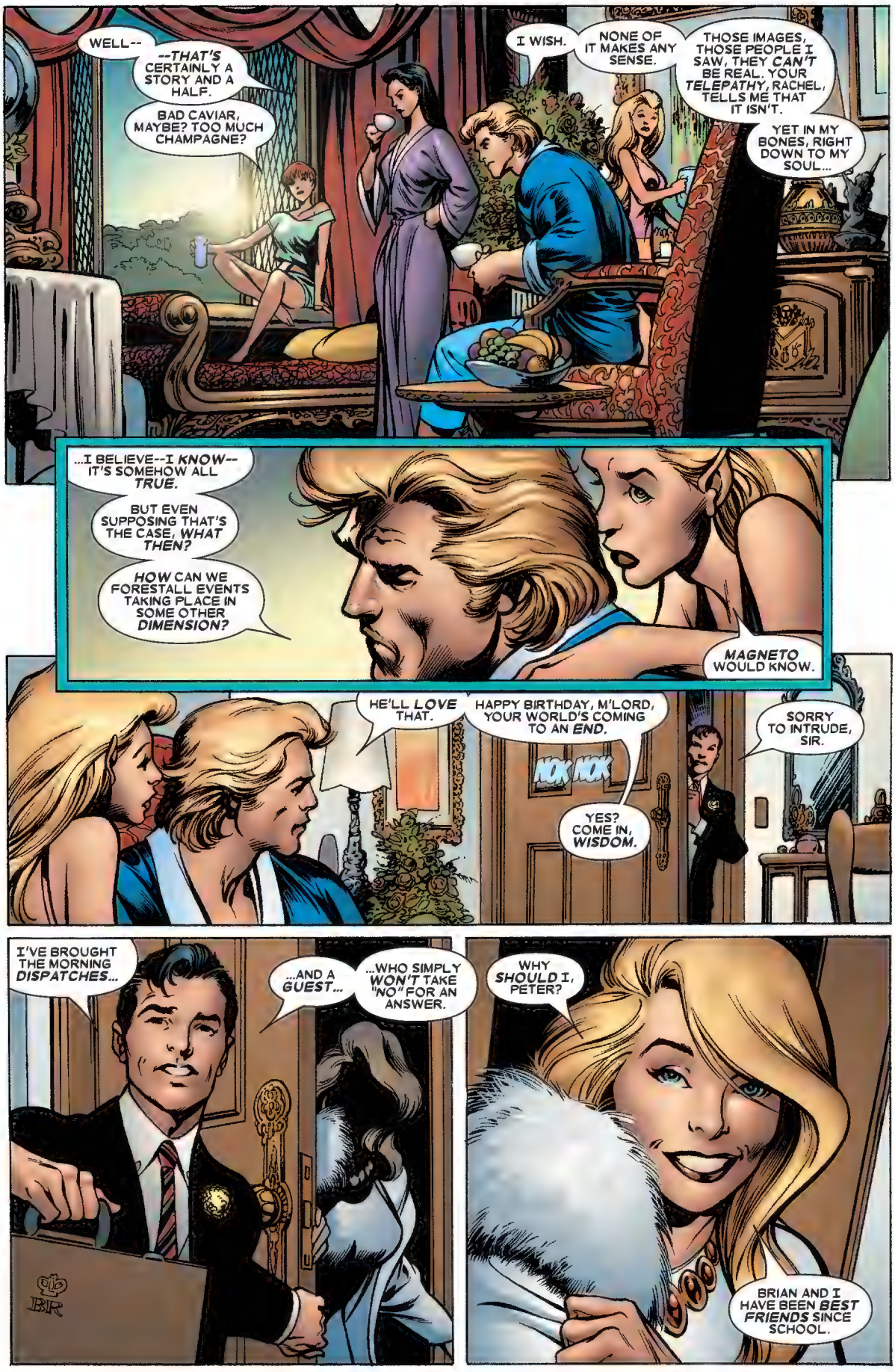
MY GOD, IT *IS* YOU!
WHEN I HEARD OLD JOFFREY'S BELLOW I THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT I WAS *DREAMING!*
BUT YOU'RE *HERE*, YOU'RE *ALIVE!*
RACHEL, MY DEAR--WHAT A *LOVELY* YOUNG WOMAN YOU'VE BECOME.
IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU, TOO, *MEGGAN.*
"BEING *QUEEN* SUITS YOU."
"RACHEL--WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*"
"KEEPING THE MOMENT *PRIVATE*, I'M TELEPATHICALLY *SCREENING* OUR PRESENCE FROM THE SURROUNDING MINDS.
"I'M SORRY--*LATELY*, THAT'S BECOME PRETTY MUCH A *REFLEX.*"

ARE YOU REAL?
IS ALL THIS?
AFTER THE NEWS FROM SPAIN I WAS SO AFRAID--!
MY LUCK DOESN'T RUN OUT SO EASY, BABY BROTHER.
HEY, ONLY BY A COUPLE OF MINUTES, SHOW SOME RESPECT.
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.
IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME.
BEG PARDON, HIGHNESS, BUT IF YOU'RE FIRST-BORN--?
WE CUT A DEAL.
HE GETS TO BE MONARCH--
--WITH THE HAPPILY-EVER-AFTER OF HEARTH AND HOME AND FAMILY.
I'M THE WARRIOR.
FINISHING ONE QUEST ONLY TO START ANOTHER.
EACH TIME, I'M TERRIFIED I'LL LOSE YOU FOREVER.
AND SOMEDAY, YOU WILL.
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!
IT'LL STILL HAPPEN, REGARDLESS.
C'MON, BROTHER, LET'S ENJOY YOUR PARTY.
BECAUSE NOBODY SAID THAT "SOMEDAY" HAS TO BE TODAY...
...OR TOMORROW...
...OR EVEN ANYTIME SOON!


THE NIGHT PASSES.
THE LAST OF THE GUESTS DEPART.
AND THE HOUSEHOLD STAFF GETS BUSY...
...MAKING THE ROYALS' COUNTRY PALACE PRESENTABLE FOR THE MORROW.
BRIAN BRADDOCK IS BOTH MONARCH AND CHAMPION OF HIS REALM.
HE STRIVES TO SERVE HIS PEOPLE WELL, WHETHER MUTANT OR SAPIEN.
HE KNOWS HE HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM EITHER.
IN A WAY THAT GENERALLY MAKES HIM SMILE, HE CONSIDERS THIS THE WORLD OF HIS DREAMS.
THE HAPPY ENDING ALL PEOPLE DESERVE.
BUT THERE ARE NO SMILES TONIGHT, AS HE LIES BESIDE THE WIFE HE LOVES MORE THAN HIS OWN LIFE...
...ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF SWEPT AWAY...
...BY NIGHTMARES!

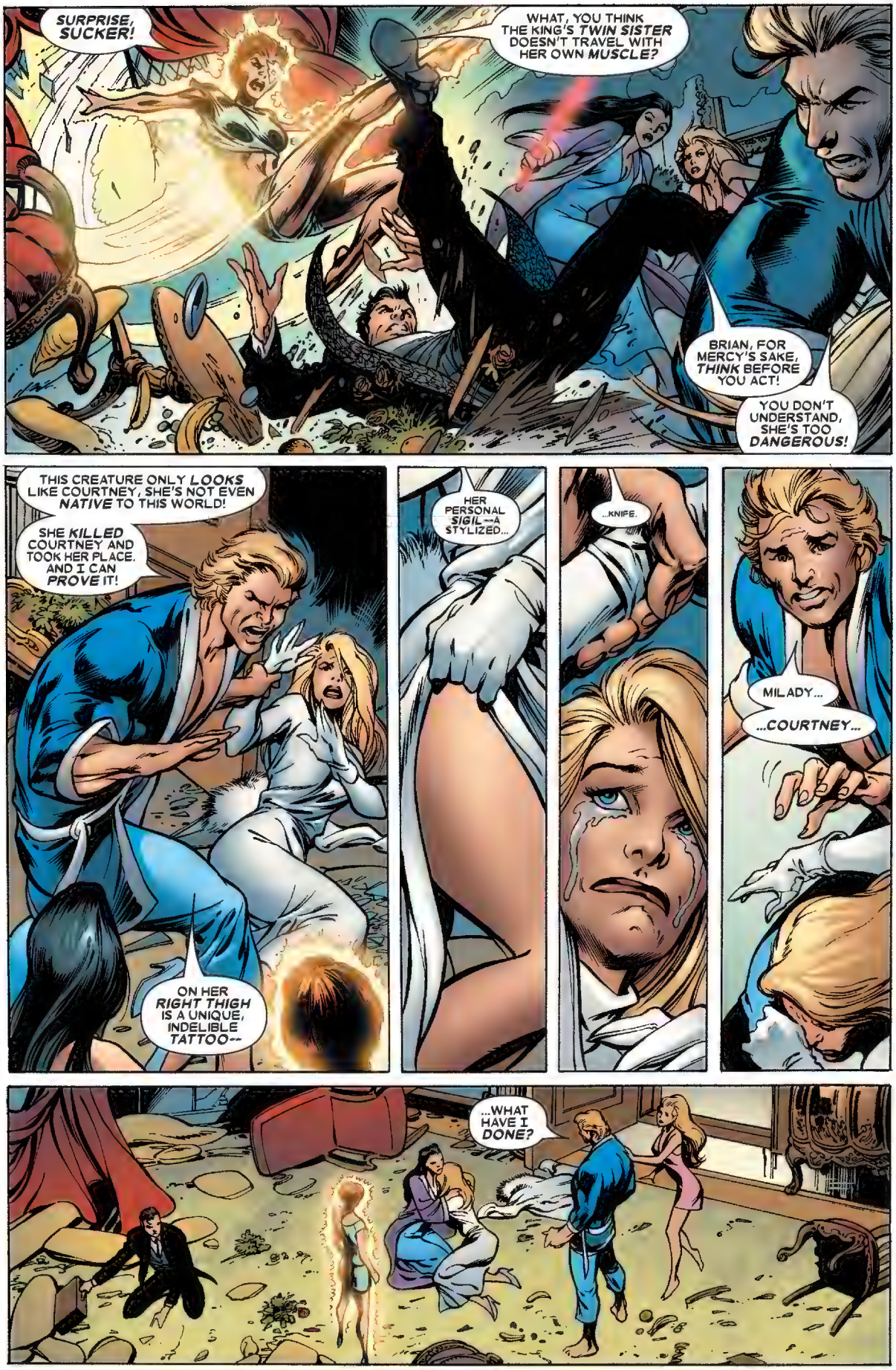

MY CAPTAIN--MY CHAMPION!
48 HOURS, BRIAN!
YOUR WORLD IS DOOMED!
I KNOW THOSE FACES!
WHY ARE THEY YELLING?!
WHAT DO THEY MEAN ABOUT TIME RUNNING OUT?!
SATURNYNE--DON'T!
YOUR WORLD HAS BECOME A CAUSALITY CANCER!
ITS VERY EXISTENCE THREATENS THE COHERENCE OF THE ENTIRE SIDEREAL STRING!
YOU CAN'T WIPE OUT MY ENTIRE DIMENSION!
...I MUST!
TO SAFEGUARD ALL CREATION...

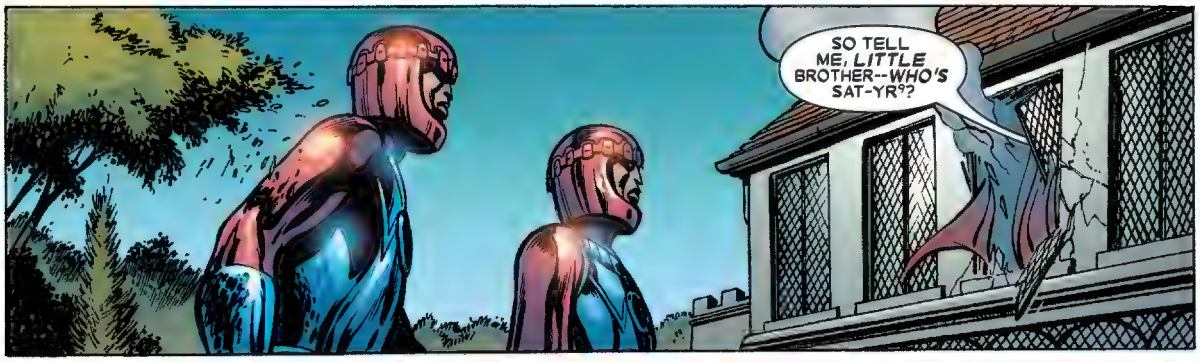
MEMORIES BURN IN HIM LIKE HOT ICE.
ANOTHER WORLD, A PARALLEL EARTH, A GREAT TRIBUNAL, A RULER PASSING JUDGMENT, THE PRESSING OF A CRYSTAL KEY.
HIS VOICE--ALONE AGAINST THAT CAVERNOUS SILENCE--HOARSE AND BREAKING WITH THE VEHEMENCE OF HIS SUDDEN, PASSIONATE, FUTILE PROTEST.
AND JUST LIKE THAT, AN ENTIRE DIMENSION CEASES TO EXIST.
NOW IT'S HIS TURN, TO BEAR WITNESS TO THIS TERRIBLE EVENT--
--AS ONE OF THE CONDEMNED.
NO!


WELL--
--THAT'S CERTAINLY A STORY AND A HALF.
BAD CAVIAR, MAYBE? TOO MUCH CHAMPAGNE?
I WISH.
NONE OF IT MAKES ANY SENSE.
THOSE IMAGES, THOSE PEOPLE I SAW, THEY CAN'T BE REAL. YOUR TELEPATHY, RACHEL, TELLS ME THAT IT ISN'T.
YET IN MY BONES, RIGHT DOWN TO MY SOUL...
...I BELIEVE--I KNOW--IT'S SOMEHOW ALL TRUE.
BUT EVEN SUPPOSING THAT'S THE CASE, WHAT THEN?
HOW CAN WE FORESTALL EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN SOME OTHER DIMENSION?
MAGNETO WOULD KNOW.
HE'LL LOVE THAT.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, M'LORD, YOUR WORLD'S COMING TO AN END.
KNOCK KNOCK
YES? COME IN, WISDOM.
SORRY TO INTRUDE, SIR.
I'VE BROUGHT THE MORNING DISPATCHES...
...AND A GUEST...
...WHO SIMPLY WON'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER.
BR
WHY SHOULD I, PETER?
BRIAN AND I HAVE BEEN BEST FRIENDS SINCE SCHOOL.

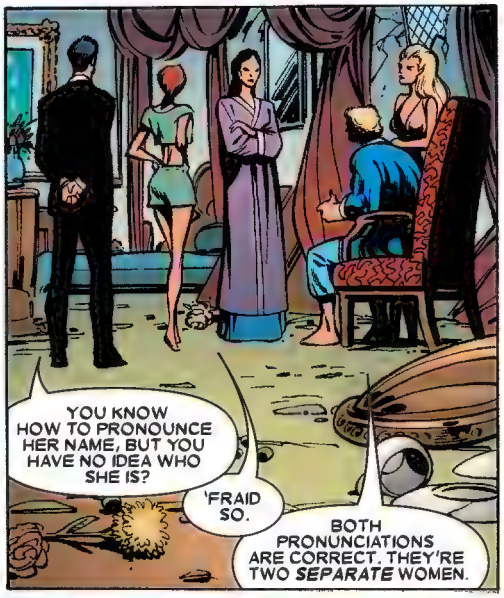
YOU!
BRIAN?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
MURDERER!
YOU'RE NOT COURTNEY ROSS!
SHE'S OPA-LUN SAT-YR9--
--DEPOSED TYRANT OF EARTH 839!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
BRIAN--YOUR MAJESTY--YOU'RE HURTING ME!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS!
BETSY--THERE'S NOTHING IN HIS HEAD BUT RAGE!
HE MEANS TO KILL HER!
STOP HIM, RACHEL!
SHUT HIM DOWN--ANY WAY YOU CAN!
YOU DARE USE YOUR MIND-TRICKS ON ME, GIRL?
YAIEOW!

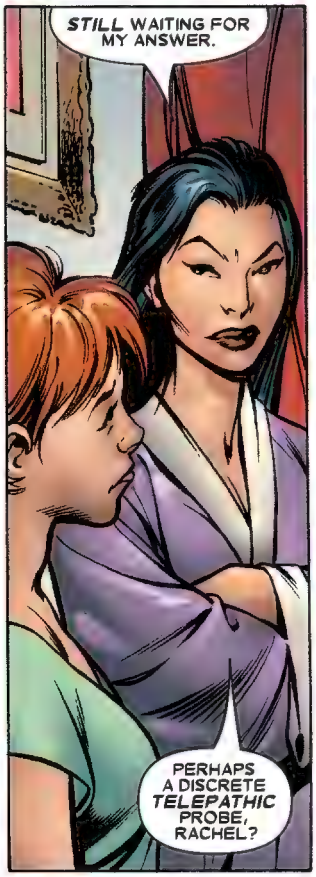
HE REACTED BEFORE I COULD GET A TOTAL PSY-LOCK ON HIM.
I MUST BE CRAZY TO EVEN TRY.
HE'S CHAMPION OF THE REALM--
--NOT TO MENTION KING.
ISN'T ATTACKING HIM BASICALLY-- TREASON?
DON'T CARE.
I CAN'T LET HIM COMMIT MURDER.
BROTHER-- LET HER GO!
HE ISN'T LISTENING.
WITH HIS STRENGTH, HE'LL BREAK HER BONES LIKE THEY WERE TWIGS.
NO TIME FOR REASON. I CAN ONLY HOPE MY PSYCHIC KATANA WILL FREEZE HIM INTO A FUGUE--
BLESS MY SOUL!
STAND DOWN, ROYAL HIGHNESS.
OR MY NEXT VOLLEY OF HOT KNIVES GOES STRAIGHT TO YOUR HEART!
BEEN AWAY TOO LONG. FORGOT THE KING'S PERSONAL PRIVATE SECRETARY...
...ALSO DOUBLES AS HIS BODYGUARD!

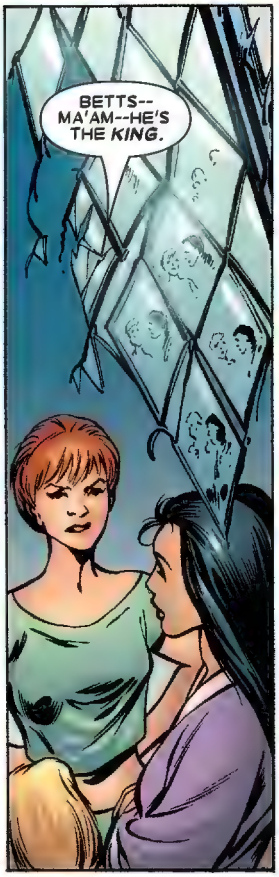

SURPRISE, SUCKER!
WHAT, YOU THINK THE KING'S TWIN SISTER DOESN'T TRAVEL WITH HER OWN MUSCLE?
BRIAN, FOR MERCY'S SAKE, THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, SHE'S TOO DANGEROUS!
THIS CREATURE ONLY LOOKS LIKE COURTNEY, SHE'S NOT EVEN NATIVE TO THIS WORLD!
SHE KILLED COURTNEY AND TOOK HER PLACE. AND I CAN PROVE IT!
ON HER RIGHT THIGH IS A UNIQUE, INDELIBLE TATTOO--
HER PERSONAL SIGIL --A STYLIZED...
...KNIFE.
MILADY...
...COURTNEY...
...WHAT HAVE I DONE?


SO TELL ME, LITTLE BROTHER--WHO'S SAT-YR?

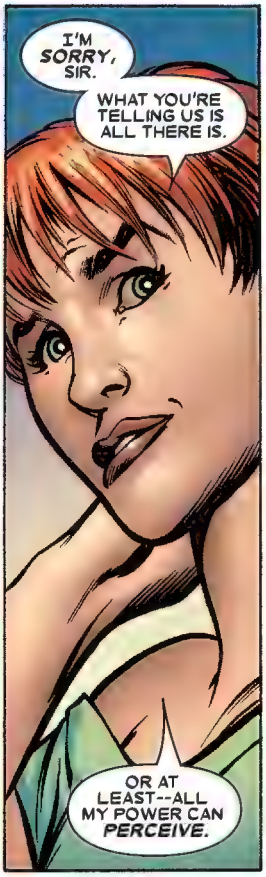
SATURNYNE.
I BEG YOUR PARDON?
YOU'RE PRONOUNCING IT WRONG.
WHATEVER.
WHO IS SHE?
HAVEN'T A CLUE?


YOU KNOW HOW TO PRONOUNCE HER NAME, BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO SHE IS?
'FRAID SO.
BOTH PRONUNCIATIONS ARE CORRECT. THEY'RE TWO SEPARATE WOMEN.


STILL WAITING FOR MY ANSWER.
PERHAPS A DISCRETE TELEPATHIC PROBE, RACHEL?


BETTS--MA'AM--HE'S THE KING.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, RACHEL. FEEL FREE.
I'D LIKE TO KNOW THE TRUTH MYSELF.


I'M SORRY, SIR.
WHAT YOU'RE TELLING US IS ALL THERE IS.
OR AT LEAST--ALL MY POWER CAN PERCEIVE.

OH FOR GOD'S SAKE!
HAS THE WORLD GONE MAD TODAY, OR IS IT JUST ME?!
WE'LL FIND THE ANSWER, BRIAN. WE'LL SET THINGS RIGHT. THAT'S WHAT HEROES DO.
A-HEM!
THERE'S NEWS FROM NEW YORK, SIR, IN THE MORNING DISPATCHES.
THEY HAVING BAD DREAMS, TOO?
WE'RE NOT ENTIRELY SURE.
SUGGESTIONS ARE THAT AT LEAST ONE MAJOR S.H.I.E.L.D. OPERATIVE, CODE-NAMED WOLVERINE, HAS GONE ROGUE.
CLOSER TO HOME, MI-13 (RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPER-BEINGS AND WEIRD HAPPENINGS) HAS ALSO DETECTED A PAIR OF MUTANT SIGNATURES IN THE WEST COUNTRY.
FLASH ANALYSIS SUGGESTS THAT ONE OF THEM MAY BE GENETICALLY RELATED TO LORD MAGNETO.
THE FUGITIVES ARE CURRENTLY BEING PURSUED BY A CLANDESTINE OPS TEAM, CODE-NAMED THE MARAUDERS.
DO THEY HAVE AUTHORIZATION?
NOT FROM US.
CAN YOU TRACK THEM?
LEAVE THAT TO RACHEL. SHE'S A BORN HUNTER.
I'M TIRED OF STANDING AROUND, I'M IN A MOOD TO THUMP SOME HEADS!
LET'S GO FIND SOME ACTION.

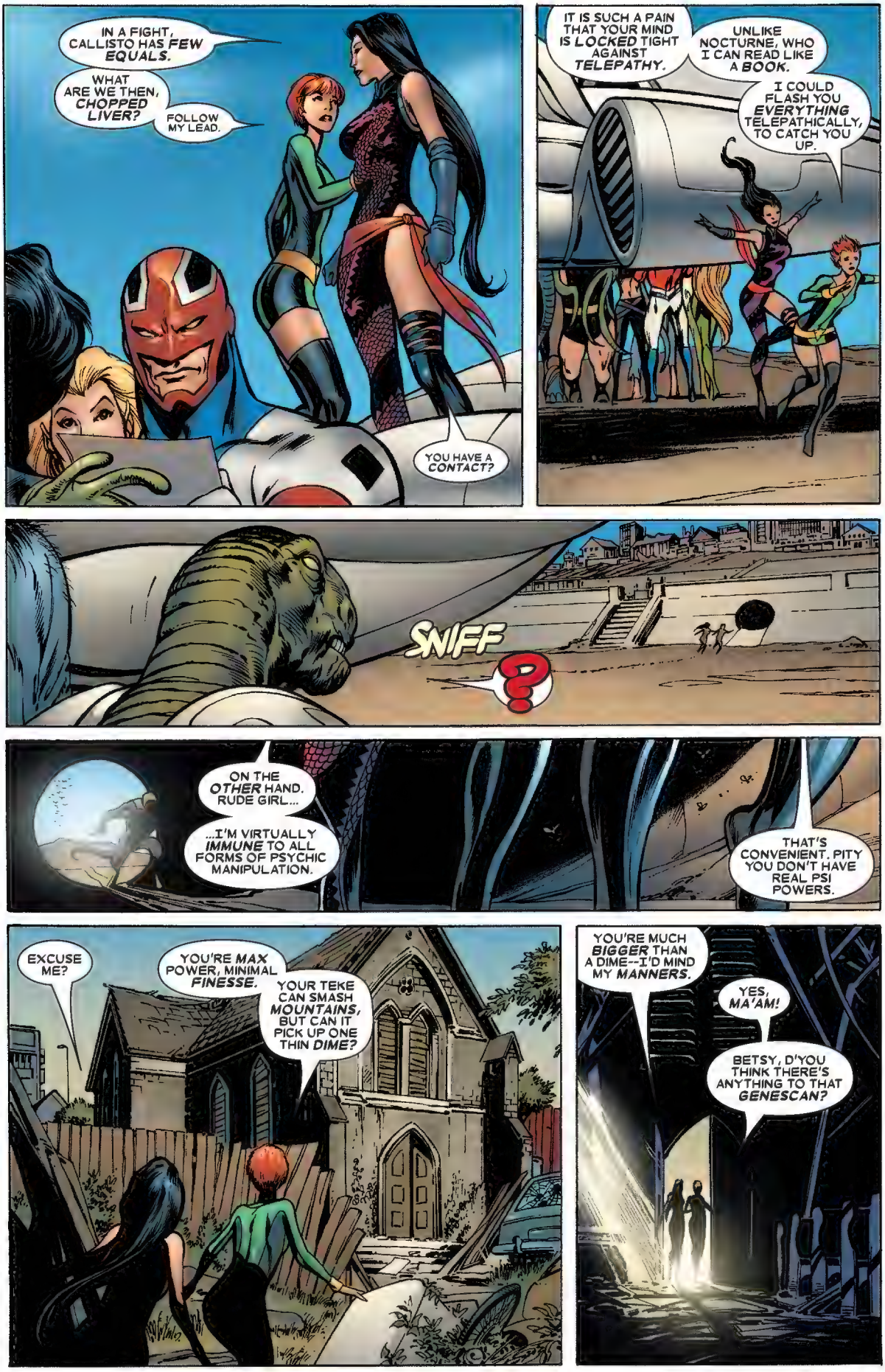
THE WEST COUNTRY
PUNT!
WHAT-IS-YOUR-PROBLEM?
WE AIN'T DONE SQUAT, WE JUST WANNA BE LEFT ALONE!
BUT YOU CLOWNS WON'T GET OFF OUR CASE!
CHOOM!
WE GOT ORDERS, JUGGERNAUT.
YOU GET GRIEF...
'TIL YOU GIVE UP.

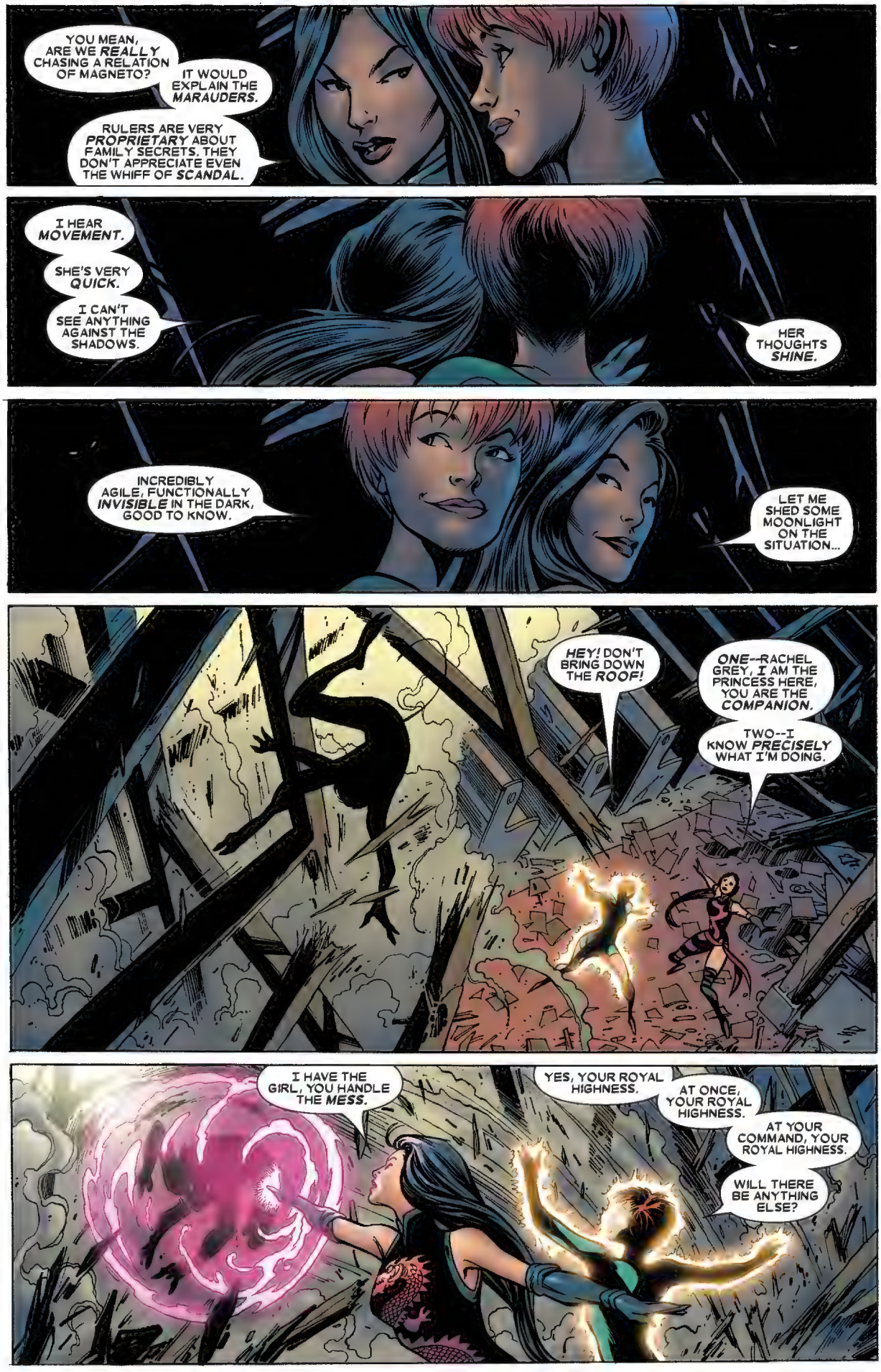
TAKE THE HINT, MONKEY-BOY--
--MORE YOU KEEP ON RUNNIN'--
SKROK!
--THE WORSE IT'S GONNA GET!
BE SENSIBLE, JUGGERNAUT.
USE THAT HEAD O' YOURS FOR SOMETHIN' MORE THAN A BATTERING RAM.
WHAT GOOD IS YOUR UNSTOPPABLE STRENGTH--
--AGAINST BANSHEE'S SONIC SCREAM?
EEEEEEE
YARGH!

HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED BY NOW, LUMMOX?
WE WON'T QUIT.
AND YOU CAN'T BEAT US.
?
!

BLOOM
WUZZAT GOOD FER YOU, JUGS?
HAWHRRR!
BETCHA WISH I DINT HAVE NO BAKED BEANS FER SUPPER.
NOT TA MENTION TOOK MORE BATHS.
WHEN THE BLOB LANDS ON FOLKS...
...THERE'S A REASON AFTER, THEY WISH THEY WUZ DEAD.
JUGGERNAUT'S ONLY HALF THE CONTRACT, PEOPLE.
THE "MONEY'S" STILL ON THE LOOSE.
WE DON'T GET PAID 'TIL WE BRING IN NOCTURNE.
ILL MET BY MOONLIGHT, EH, CALLISTO?

I DO SO HOPE WE'RE *INTERRUPTING.*
EXPLAIN YOURSELF. WHY ARE YOU AFTER THESE PEOPLE?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, BRADDOCK.
YOUR *TITLE* MAY IMPRESS THE LOCALS...
...BUT MY WARRANTS AND *AUTHORITY* COME FROM *MAGNETO* HIMSELF.
GOTTA FIGURE, THE *RULER* OF THE WHOLE PLANET *TOPS* THE RULER OF THIS STINKIN' LITTLE ISLAND *ANYDAY.*
MAY I SEE YOUR DOCUMENTS, PLEASE?
NICE *MOUTH* ON HER.
AND YOU GOTTA *LOVE* THOSE *ARMS.*
BE CAREFUL, RED. SHE KNOWS HOW TO *USE* THEM.


IN A FIGHT, CALLISTO HAS *FEW EQUALS.*
WHAT ARE WE THEN, *CHOPPED LIVER?*
FOLLOW MY LEAD.
YOU HAVE A *CONTACT?*
IT IS SUCH A PAIN THAT YOUR MIND IS *LOCKED* TIGHT AGAINST *TELEPATHY.*
UNLIKE NOCTURNE, WHO I CAN READ LIKE A *BOOK.*
I COULD FLASH YOU *EVERYTHING* TELEPATHICALLY, TO CATCH YOU UP.
SNIFF
?
ON THE *OTHER* HAND. RUDE GIRL...
...I'M VIRTUALLY *IMMUNE* TO ALL FORMS OF PSYCHIC MANIPULATION.
THAT'S CONVENIENT. PITY YOU DON'T HAVE REAL PSI POWERS.
EXCUSE ME?
YOU'RE *MAX* POWER, MINIMAL *FINESSE.*
YOUR TEKE CAN SMASH *MOUNTAINS,* BUT CAN IT PICK UP ONE THIN *DIME?*
YOU'RE MUCH *BIGGER* THAN A DIME--I'D MIND MY *MANNERS.*
YES, *MA'AM!*
BETSY, D'YOU THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO THAT *GENESCAN?*


YOU MEAN, ARE WE *REALLY* CHASING A RELATION OF MAGNETO?
IT WOULD EXPLAIN THE *MARAUDERS.*
RULERS ARE VERY *PROPRIETARY* ABOUT FAMILY SECRETS. THEY DON'T APPRECIATE EVEN THE WHIFF OF *SCANDAL.*
I HEAR *MOVEMENT.*
SHE'S VERY *QUICK.*
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING AGAINST THE SHADOWS.
HER THOUGHTS *SHINE.*
INCREDIBLY AGILE, FUNCTIONALLY *INVISIBLE* IN THE DARK, GOOD TO KNOW.
LET ME SHED SOME MOONLIGHT ON THE SITUATION...
HEY! DON'T BRING DOWN THE *ROOF!*
ONE--RACHEL GREY, *I* AM THE PRINCESS HERE, YOU ARE THE *COMPANION.*
TWO--I KNOW *PRECISELY* WHAT I'M DOING.
I HAVE THE GIRL, YOU HANDLE THE *MESS.*
YES, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS.
AT ONCE, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS.
AT YOUR COMMAND, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS.
WILL THERE BE ANYTHING ELSE?

NOTHING POLITE COMES TO MIND--
--WHAT THE DEVIL?!
SHE'S TRYING TO POSSESS YOU!
SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.
DON'T HURT ME, PLEASE DON'T HURT ME!
IT'S OKAY, HON, DON'T BE SCARED.
THAT PSYCHIC IMPACT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE SMASHING INTO A BRICK WALL.
PLEASE DON'T HURT ME!
BETSY, SHE LOOKS--!
NOTHING LIKE MAGNETO.
WE'RE WAY BEYOND SCANDAL, RACHEL...

UNCANNY X-MEN #464

THE WEST OF ENGLAND
SOMETHING'S COMING, GIRLS...

...HEADS UP!
WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
KRRSSH!
SAW THEM TWO BINTS SLIP AWAY. FIGURED IT'D BE WORTH IT T' FOLLOW!
THE TELEPATH IS USING HER POWER TO INHIBIT MINE...
...BUT CALIBAN STILL DETECTS ENOUGH OF OUR QUARRY'S SCENT TO KNOW SHE IS HERE.
RESISTANCE IS FUTILE, CHILD. THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN.
YIELD-- IN THE NAME OF MAGNETO!
RACHEL-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IMPROVISING, BETSY--LIKE ALWAYS.
YOU WANT TO POSSESS SOMEONE, NOCTURNE?
TRY ME.
OH BLOODY HELL!

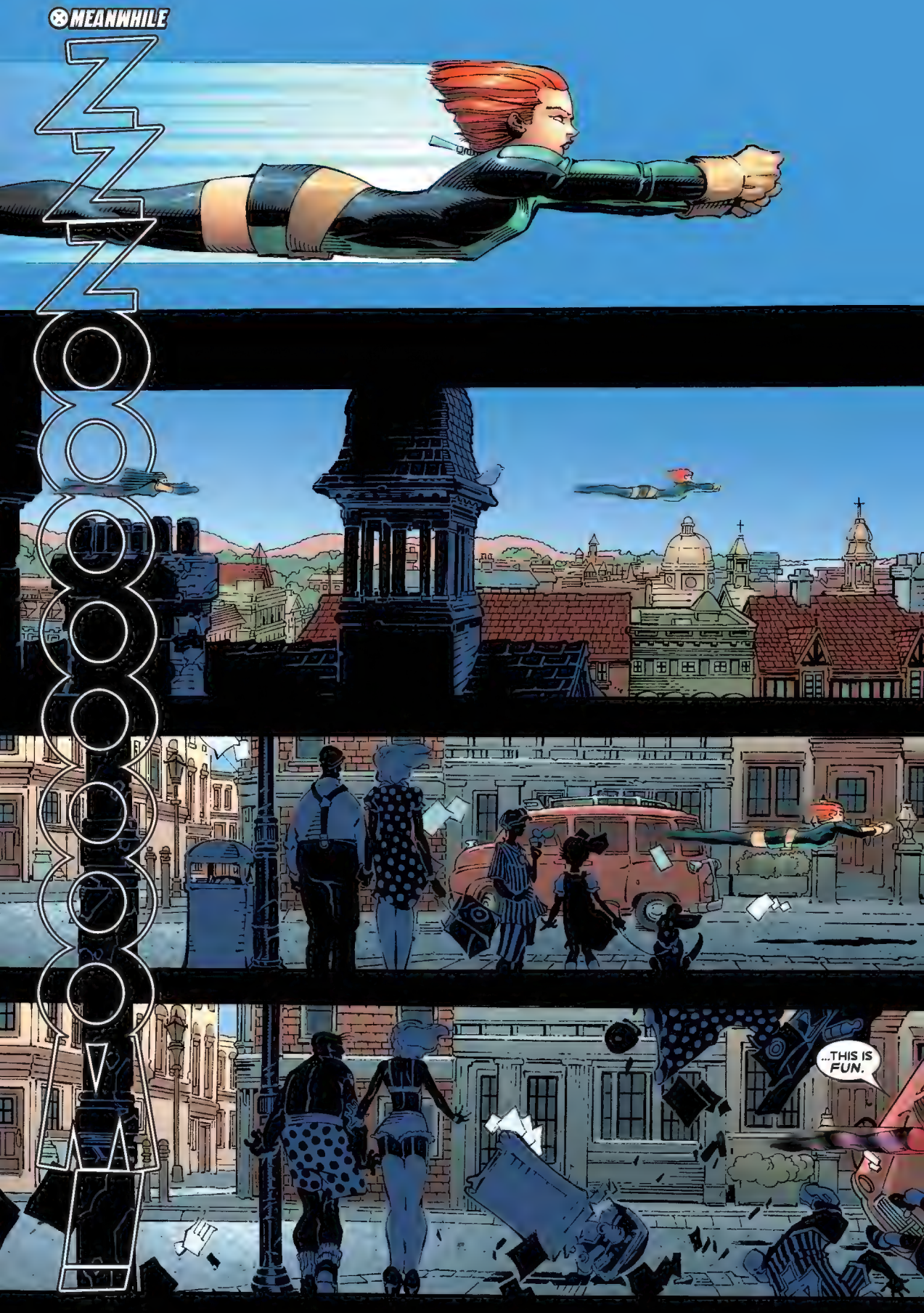
STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE UNCANNY X-MEN!
Season of the Witch
PART 3 -OF- 4
STAND DOWN, MARAUDERS.
THERE'S NOBODY HERE BUT THE PRINCESS ROYAL OF THE REALM AND HER COMPANION.
CALIBAN DOES NOT BELIEVE YOU.
THE GIRL'S HERE, I CAN SMELL HER!
RACHEL'S A TELEPATH, SHE KNOWS T-REX IS BLUFFING.

BETSY, IN TURN, RESPONDS INSTINCTIVELY TO THE SIGHT OF TEETH AND CLAWS CLOSING IN ON HER FRIEND.
I SAID, BACK OFF!
?!
TYPICAL ENGLISH PRINCESS--
--NO MANNERS A'TALL WORTH THE NAME!
HOW NICE 'TIS T' BE RECOGNIZED.
I WONDER IF YOU TASTE AS GOOD AS YOU LOOK!
BLACK TOM CASSIDY!
WORD IS, Y'R TEKE CAN SHATTER MOUNTAINS?
ODDLY ENOUGH, SO CAN I.
LET'S DANCE, AN' SEE WHO'S THE STRONGER!

AIEOW! IT BURNS!
COURTESY OF MY HOT KNIVES, PLANT-MAN.
I'VE GOT YOUR BACK, MILADY!
HOW VERY KIND, MR. WISDOM.
FOR THE RECORD, CASSIDY, THE STRENGTH OF MY TEKE IS LIMITED SOLELY BY MY IMAGINATION--
--AND MY IMAGINATION HAS NO LIMIT.
I SHORT-CIRCUITED HIS BRAIN STEM. HE'LL BE OUT FOR A LONG WHILE.
ROYAL TO RACHEL, ANYBODY HOME?
WE WORK BEST AS A TEAM, REMEMBER?
EVIDENTLY NOT.

I SWEAR, SOMEDAY THAT GIRL WILL BE THE DEATH OF ME.
SADDLE UP, MARAUDERS.
I'M BETTING IF WE FOLLOW THE PRINCESS, SHE AND THE REDHEAD WILL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO NOCTURNE--
--AND THE BIGGEST PAYDAY OF OUR LIVES!
I DON'T THINK SO, CALLISTO.
OUR AUTHORITY COMES FROM THE HOUSE OF M, BRADDOCK.
PICK A FIGHT WITH US, YOU'LL START A WAR.
D'YOU REALLY THINK THE MASTER OF THE WORLD WANTS THAT FOR A BIRTHDAY PRESENT?
WE HAVE OUR ORDERS.
THIS IS MY REALM, CALLISTO.
LET ME AND MY SISTER HANDLE THIS.
DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL GET THE CREDIT, AND THE FEE.
ALL RIGHT, BRADDOCK, THIS ROUND TO YOU.
BUT IF THERE'S EVEN A HINT OF A DOUBLE CROSS...
...ROYAL BLOOD WON'T SAVE YOU--OR YOUR PRECIOUS SISTER.

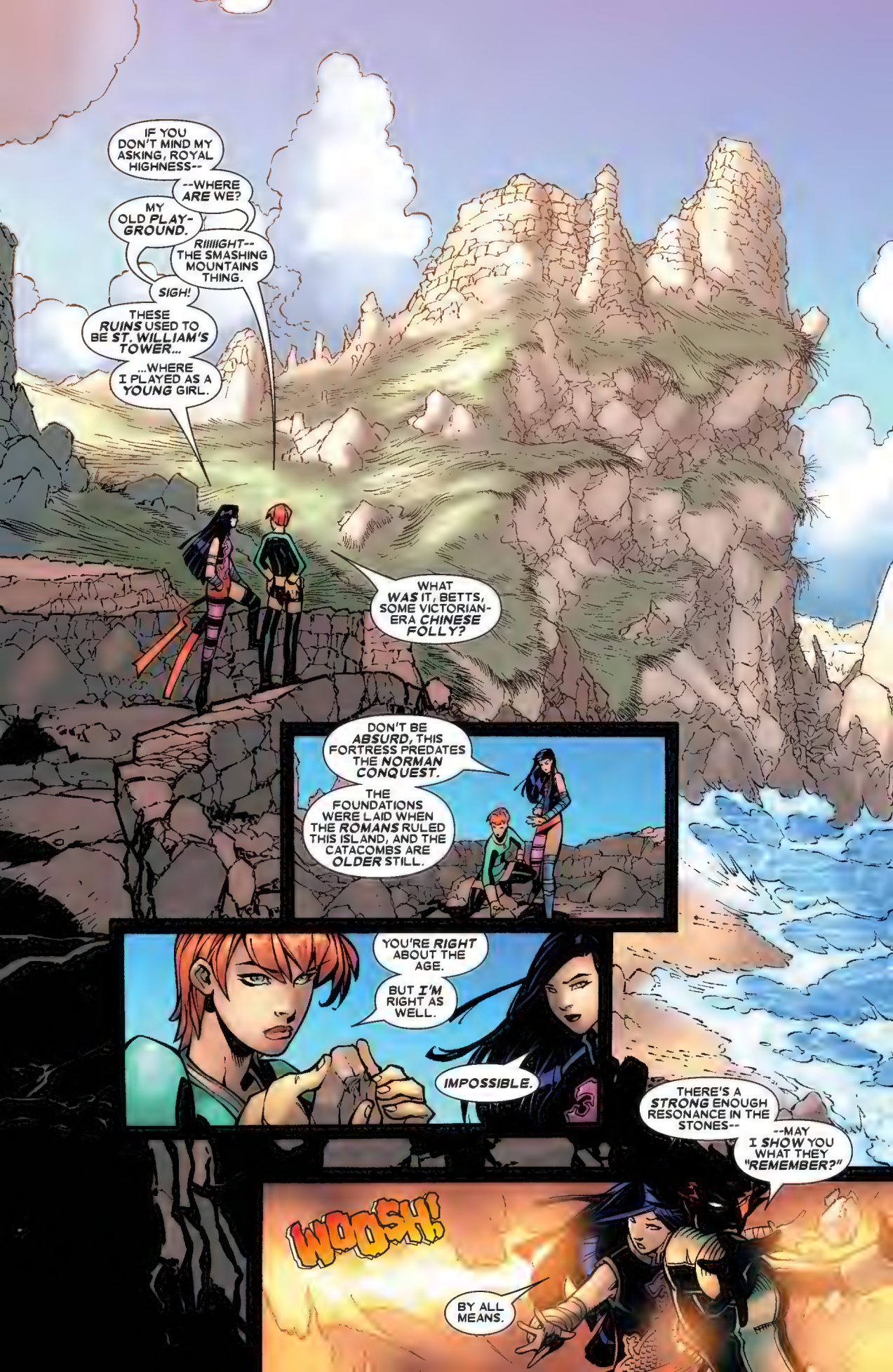
BRIAN!
MEGGAN, WHAT--?!
BLESS MY SOUL.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER?
MY CHAMPION--
--THE FATE OF ALL CREATION RESTS ON YOUR SHOULDERS--
--WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?
ROMA?
SHE WARNED YOU--
SATURNYNE?
--NOT TO BE SUBSUMED BENEATH YOUR WORLD'S NEW REALITY.
BRADDOCK, WHAT'S HAPPENING?! WHY'S SHE CHANGING FORM?
TICK-TOCK, BABY BROTHER, TICK-TOCK.
TIME'S A WASTIN'!
IF YOU CANNOT FIND THE HERO WITHIN THE MONARCH...
...WE ARE ALL OF US DOOMED.
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW... IS THE QUEEN CRAZY?!
I-- DON'T-- KNOW!

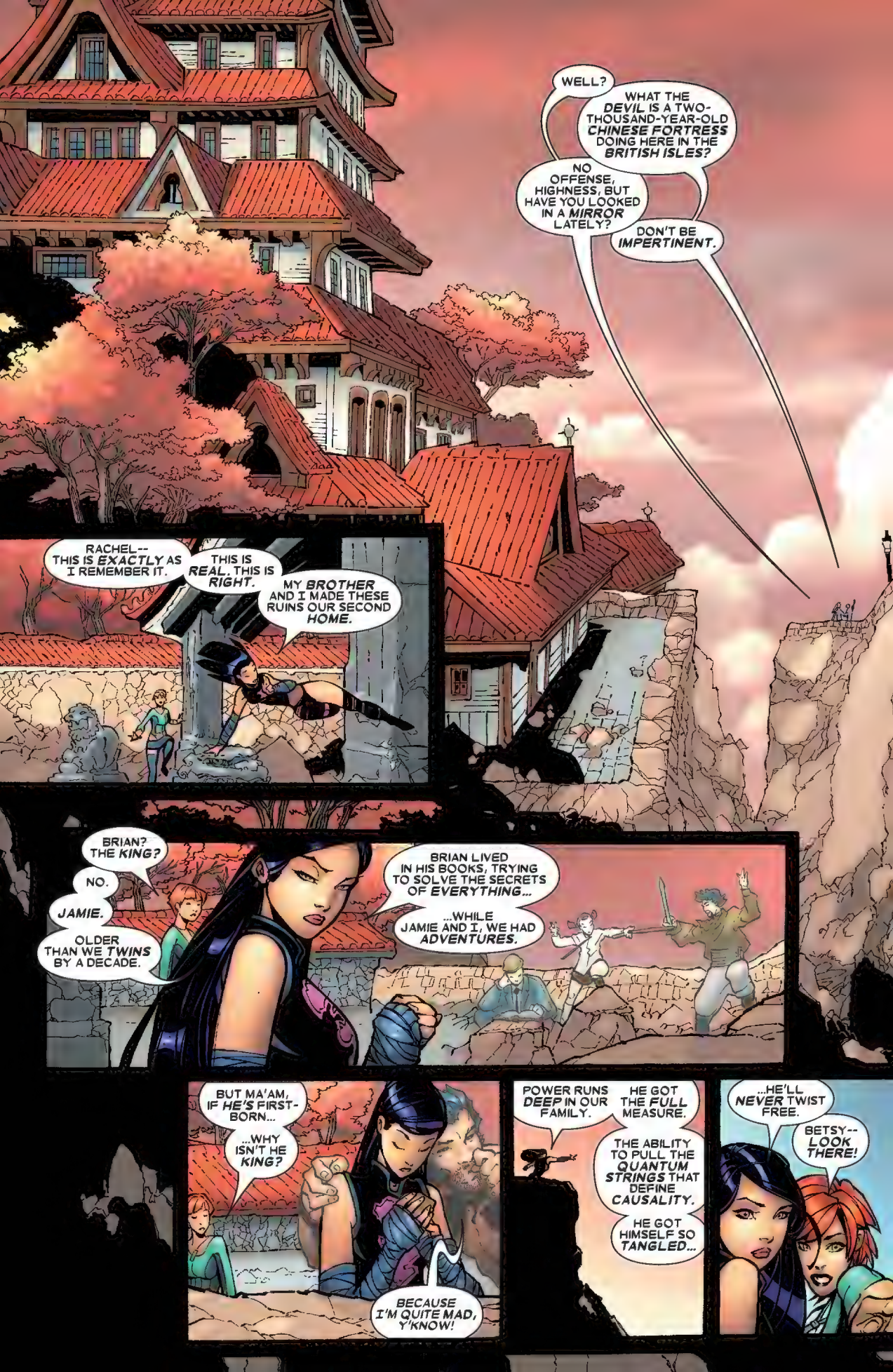

MEANWHILE
...THIS IS FUN.

BUT I THINK WE'RE *FAR* ENOUGH FROM THE MARAUDERS NOW, RACHEL.
TIME TO BRING YOU *DOWN!*
SHWAPP!
KRANNGH!
ALL RIGHT, NOW THAT WE HAVE SOME *PRIVACY...*
I *WON'T* LET YOU TAKE ME!
OOPS.
RACHEL DEAR, COULD IT BE THAT YOU'VE *UNDERESTIMATED* THE RESOURCES OF YOUR "PASSENGER", NOCTURNE?
I'LL *FIGHT* IF I HAVE TO.
AND I'LL *WIN!*

BECAUSE I KNOW *EVERY-THING* THAT RACHEL DOES.
YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HER *MOVES*, I'LL GRANT YOU THAT.
BUT I'M *IMMUNE* TO HER *TELEPATHY*.
THAT'S ONE BIG WEAPON *GONE* FROM HER ARSENAL.
AND AS FOR THE *REST*...
THWAP!
WACKK!
KA-BOOM!

I GIVE UP!
I GIVE UP!
I GIVE UP!
RACHEL?
GEEZ, DIDJA HAFTA BRING DOWN THE ENTIRE HOUSE?!
YOU STARTED IT.
"TJ" STARTED IT. I WAS JUST ALONG FOR THE RIDE.
SHE'S ASLEEP NOW.
COME AGAIN?
I FIGURED SHE WASN'T USED TO THE KINDS OF POWER WE THROW AT EACH OTHER...IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE SHE SIMPLY RAN OUT OF GAS...
...AND I'D BE BACK IN CONTROL.
WHO IS SHE?
TALIA JOSEPHINE WAGNER.
BEYOND THAT, SHE KNOWS NOTHING.
ESPECIALLY NOT WHY THE MARAUDERS ARE AFTER HER.
ARE YOU GOING TO EVICT HER?
FOR THE MOMENT, SHE'S BETTER OFF WHERE SHE IS.


IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING, ROYAL HIGHNESS--
--WHERE ARE WE?
MY OLD PLAY-GROUND.
RIIIIIGHT-- THE SMASHING MOUNTAINS THING.
SIGH!
THESE RUINS USED TO BE ST. WILLIAM'S TOWER...
...WHERE I PLAYED AS A YOUNG GIRL.
WHAT WAS IT, BETTS, SOME VICTORIAN-ERA CHINESE FOLLY?
DON'T BE ABSURD, THIS FORTRESS PREDATES THE NORMAN CONQUEST.
THE FOUNDATIONS WERE LAID WHEN THE ROMANS RULED THIS ISLAND, AND THE CATACOMBS ARE OLDER STILL.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE AGE.
BUT I'M RIGHT AS WELL.
IMPOSSIBLE.
THERE'S A STRONG ENOUGH RESONANCE IN THE STONES--
--MAY I SHOW YOU WHAT THEY "REMEMBER?"
WOOSH!
BY ALL MEANS.


WELL?
WHAT THE DEVIL IS A TWO-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD CHINESE FORTRESS DOING HERE IN THE BRITISH ISLES?
NO OFFENSE, HIGHNESS, BUT HAVE YOU LOOKED IN A MIRROR LATELY?
DON'T BE IMPERTINENT.
RACHEL-- THIS IS EXACTLY AS I REMEMBER IT.
THIS IS REAL. THIS IS RIGHT.
MY BROTHER AND I MADE THESE RUINS OUR SECOND HOME.
BRIAN? THE KING?
NO. JAMIE.
OLDER THAN WE TWINS BY A DECADE.
BRIAN LIVED IN HIS BOOKS, TRYING TO SOLVE THE SECRETS OF EVERYTHING...
...WHILE JAMIE AND I, WE HAD ADVENTURES.
BUT MA'AM, IF HE'S FIRST-BORN...
...WHY ISN'T HE KING?
BECAUSE I'M QUITE MAD, Y'KNOW!
POWER RUNS DEEP IN OUR FAMILY.
HE GOT THE FULL MEASURE.
THE ABILITY TO PULL THE QUANTUM STRINGS THAT DEFINE CAUSALITY.
HE GOT HIMSELF SO TANGLED...
...HE'LL NEVER TWIST FREE.
BETSY-- LOOK THERE!

IT'S A LIGHTHOUSE, RACHEL.
BRIAN'S FAVORITE PLACE TO READ, SO WHAT?
SEE WHAT?!
BETSY-- CAN'T YOU SEE?!
OH, NOTHING MUCH--
--JUST A GREAT, THUMPING HOLE SLASHED THROUGH REALITY, IN THE SHAPE OF AN "X".
REALLY?
WHERE?
ONE MORE STEP, MA'AM, AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR VERY OWN "WILE E. COYOTE" MOMENT.
WE'LL LINK OUR POWERS THEN, AND USE OUR TEKE AS A SAFETY LINE.
AREN'T YOU COMING?
IT HURTS! LIKE SOME AWFUL, FESTERING WOUND.
BETSY, CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?
NOT A THING.
PLEASE, COME AWAY!
IT'S NOT SAFE!
SINCE WHEN HAS THAT EVER STOPPED US-- AAAAHHH!

WHAT IS
HAPPENING
TO ME!
BRADDOCK MANOR
THANK GOD MEGGAN'S SLEEPING.
I WISH I COULD.
BUT I'VE GOT TO PUZZLE OUT THE MEANING OF WHAT I SAW--!
GASP!
I KNOW HIM!
MY OLDER BROTHER JAMIE.
HE'S COMPLETELY MAD.
KRSH!
YOUR FANCY TOY--
--SHE BROKE!
KRSH!
OF COURSE! I REMEMBER NOW...
HE SMASHED-- THE CELESTIAL NULLIFIER.
BEFORE SATURNYNE COULD ANNIHILATE THIS ENTIRE DIMENSION!

MY CHAMPION, UNLESS THE REALITY BREACH IS SEALED, THIS CHAOS WAVE WILL CONSUME ALL CREATION.
TO PRESERVE THE SANCTITY AND SURVIVAL OF THE COSMOS, I WILL NOT HESITATE TO SACRIFICE EVEN THIS WORLD I SO CHERISH.
ONCE THE NULLIFIER IS REPAIRED...
...I WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACT.
I'M MAKING GOOD PROGRESS, ROMA.
WE'RE ALMOST READY.
YO-- DUMMY! PAY ATTENTION!
THE LADY GAVE YOU 48 HOURS!
GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER, TIME'S ALMOST UP!
MEGGAN?
AM I INSANE, JUST LIKE MY BROTHER?
NO. NO.
BRIAN, LOVE, WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING.
GIVE ME A MOMENT TO GET DRESSED, MEGGAN.
THEN WE'LL GO SAVE THE WORLD.
BRIAN!
OH, BLOODY HELL!

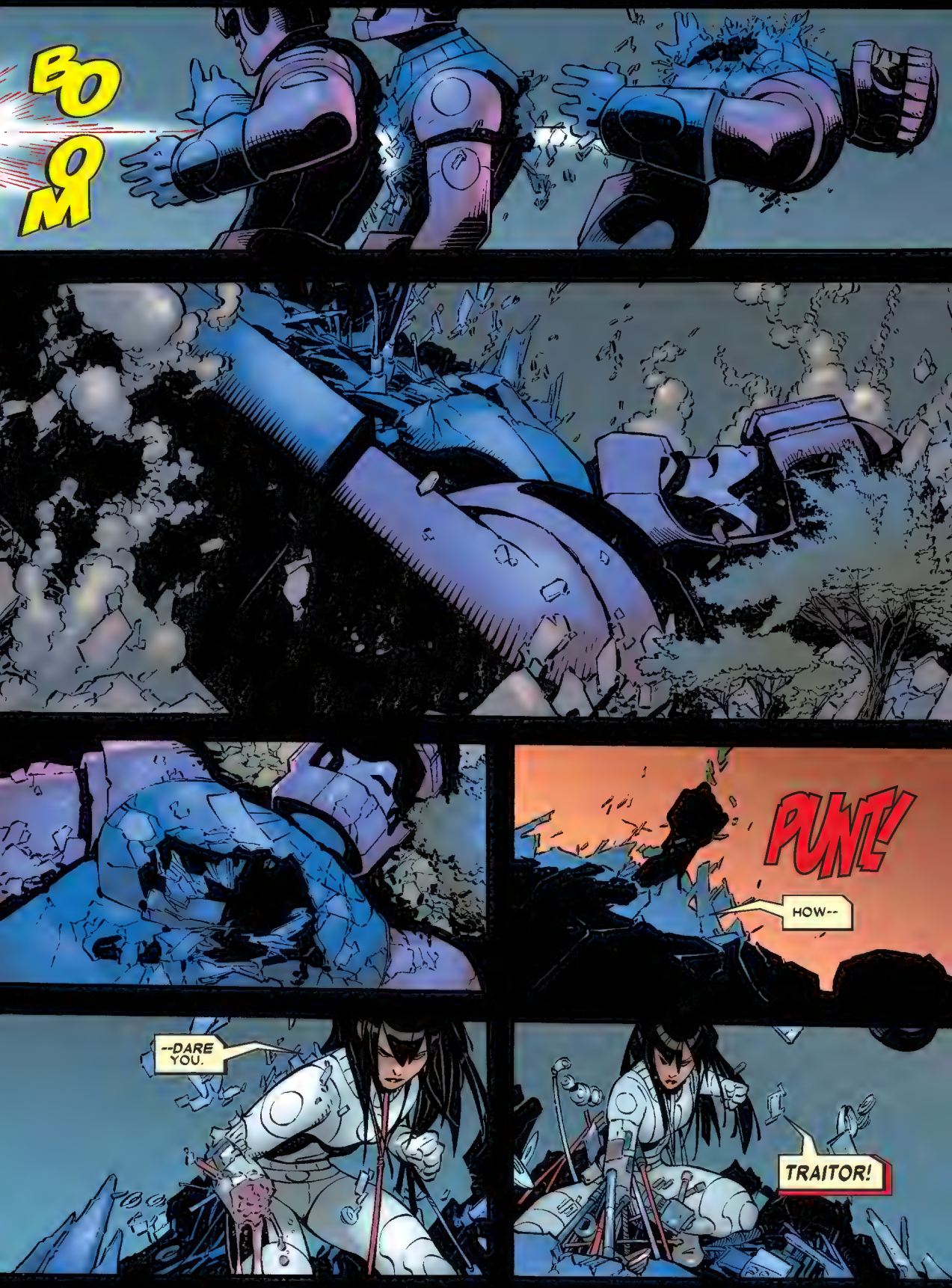
THE WORLD CAN TAKE CARE OF ITSELF, BRIAN BRADDOCK!

I'D WORRY MORE ABOUT SAVING YOURSELVES.

I AM ΩMEGA SENTINEL KARIMA SHAPANDAR.
IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD MAGNETO, I HEREBY PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST--
--FOR THE CRIME OF HIGH TREASON!
RACHEL--
--SHE'S PULLING ME BACK!
THE LIGHTHOUSE
BETTS-- ARE YOU--?!
I'M FINE, IT'S THE UNIVERSE THAT'S SICK.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CLOTHES?
I...
...I'M NOT SURE.
RACHEL, THIS IS A QUANTUM TEAR IN THE VERY FABRIC OF CREATION!
WHEN I WAS INSIDE, I FELT REALITY ITSELF-- UNRAVELLING.
WE NEED TO FIX THIS, WE HAVE TO GET BRIARRRGH!
EEEEEEE

THEY'RE BOTH DOWN, CALLISTO!
EEEEEEEE
THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY.
WRAP UP THE ROYALS-- FULL SEDATION--
--AND KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR FUGITIVE!
THERE SHE GOES!
SHE WAS HIDIN' INSIDE THE RED-HEAD!
STAY FOCUSED, TJ.
KNOW YOUR ADVERSARIES.
USE THE LANDSCAPE.
I'VE GOT THOSE GUYS BEAT WITH SPEED AND AGILITY. BETTER GO FOR HIGH GROUND.
MAX, SHE'S CLIMBING THE CLIFF.
GOT HER!
COME TO POPPA, MONKEY-GIRL.
CALLISTO, I GOT THE MONEY!

STOP THIS, CALLISTO.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THERE'S MORE AT STAKE HERE THAN YOUR BOUNTY.
KRAK
GUESS WHAT, PRINCESS--
--I DON'T CARE!
WHAT?!
I DON'T HAVE TELEPATHY.
HOW CAN I BE BACK AT THE MANOR?
I DON'T SENSE ANY THOUGHTS, IT'S MORE LIKE I'M-- SHARING THE EXPERIENCE.
P'RHAPS IT'S A TWIN THING?
WHOA-- I'M ON THE BEACH!
I'M--AWARE OF BETSY, LIKE WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN.
THE MARAUDERS-- THEY'RE BEATING HER.
I'M BLEEDING.
IS THERE ANY POINT IN DENYING THESE CHARGES?
YOU'LL HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND YOURSELF, YOUR MAJESTY.
BUT FIRST COMES INCARCERATION IN THE TOWER FOR THE DURATION OF LORD MAGNETO'S BIRTHDAY GALA.
JUST TRY IT, ROBOT!


BOOM
PUNT!
HOW--
--DARE YOU.
TRAITOR!

BY THE POWER AND AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE LORD MAGNETO--
--I HEREBY SENTENCE YOU, BRIAN BRADDOCK, AND ALL YOUR FAMILY--
--TO DEATH!

UNCANNY X-MEN #465

I TOLD YOU, WOMAN--
--THE FATE OF ALL CREATION IS AT STAKE--
--WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!
STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE UNCANNY X-MEN!
Season of the Witch
PART 1 -OF- 1
WHY WOULDN'T YOU LISTEN? WE COULD HAVE USED YOUR HELP!
BRIAN-- SENTINELS!

ZAMMAZAMMAZAMMAZAMMAZAMMAZAMMAZAMMA
YEARRGH!
OH!
THEY'RE GOING AFTER BRIAN...
...BUT MY HUSBAND CAN'T TAKE THEM ALONE.
THEY MUST THINK I'M OUT OF COMMISSION.
I'LL TEACH THEM TO UNDERESTIMATE AN ELEMENTAL MEGAMORPH!

ZZZZT?
SLASH
HRKKK
10110101001
I'LL HOLD MY BASIC FORM JUST LONG ENOUGH...
...TO GIVE THEM A TASTE OF WHERE I AM.
THE REST, THEY DO THEMSELVES!
BRILLIANT!

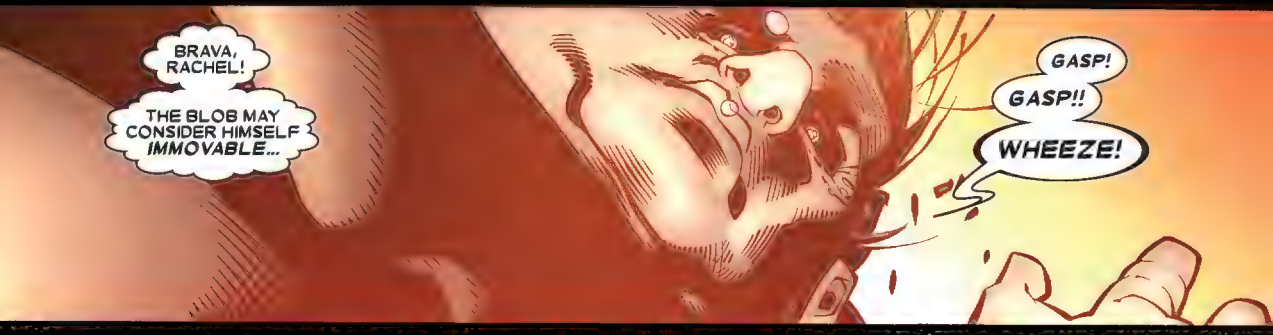
KA-BLASH!
TIME TO GO, LADIES!
BLESSED IF I KNOW, MS. ROSS. 'PEARS THE KING AND LORD MAGNETO ARE AT WAR.
MR. WISDOM--WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR THE LIKES OF US. MY STANDING ORDERS ARE TO GET YOU TO THE SHELTERS--
--MS. MACQUILLAN-- LOOK OUT!
LINDA--KEEP MOVING!
THE ROBOT'S HAND IS STILL ACTIVE!
P'RHAPS IT'S TIME HE LEARNED...
...THAT IT'S NOT POLITE TO GRAB!

IN THIS REALITY, LINDA MACQUILLAN IS A LADY-IN-WAITING TO QUEEN MEGGAN.
IN HER HOME DIMENSION, SHE--LIKE BRIAN BRADDOCK--IS A MEMBER OF THE CAPTAIN BRITAIN CORPS.
CHAMPION OF THE REALM AND A GUARDIAN OF REALITY ITSELF.
BLESS MY SOUL.
SHE'S--MAGNIFICENT!
ROMA SENT US TO HELP BRIAN. HOW DID WE GET SIDETRACKED?
"US?"
THERE ARE MORE OF YOU?
I AM JUSTICER BULL!

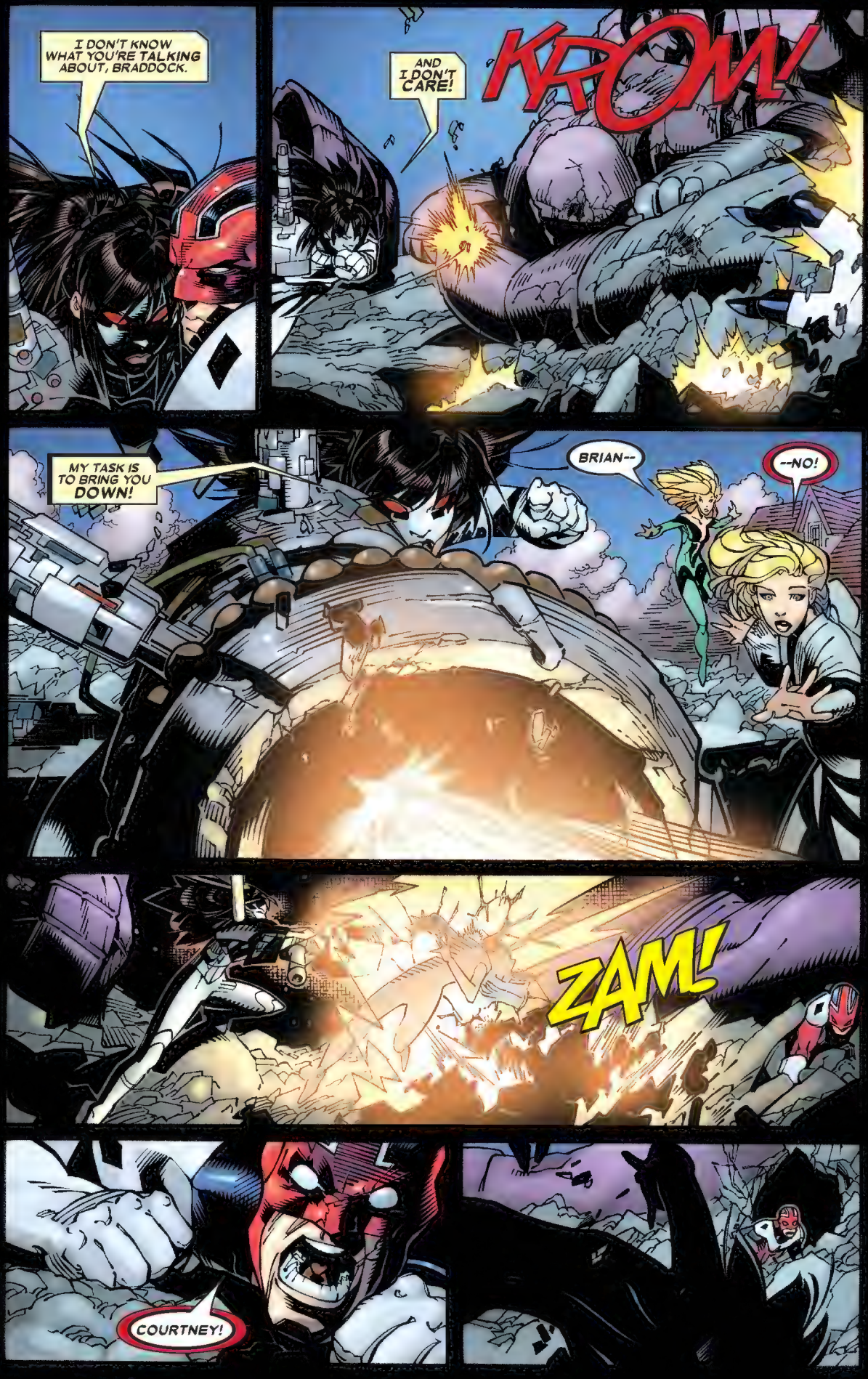
IN THE NAME OF THE LAW, I CALL UPON YOU TO STAND DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER!
OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
SHE'S BLOODY DAFT.
AND SHE'S ABOUT TO BE DEAD.
FOOL!
OUR LORD MAGNETO IS THE LAW ON THIS WORLD--
--AND WE SENTINELS ARE HIS ENFORCERS.
KRAK-KOW!
OUR JUDGMENT IS FINAL.
AND WE SHOW NO MERCY.

STOMP!
!? 10110!!
SQUEEE!
DISRESPECT FOR THE LAW--
GRUNCH!
--AND ITS OFFICERS--
--WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!
SLAMM!
OFFICER SHAPANDAR, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND!
THIS ISN'T TREASON AGAINST MAGNETO!
WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE HIS WORLD FROM ANNIHILATION!

WHUH?
AGAIN, I'M TWIN-SYNCHING WITH BETSY--
--SHARING HER EXPERIENCES.
SMART GIRL, THAT RACHEL, USING HER TEKE TO IMPRISON THE BLOB.
BUT WHAT'S NOCTURNE UP TO WITH BANSHEE?!


BRAVA, RACHEL!
THE BLOB MAY CONSIDER HIMSELF IMMOVABLE...
GASP!
GASP!!
WHEEZE!

...BUT HE STILL NEEDS TO BREATHE.
FOOM!
DID NOCTURNE SOMEHOW MERGE WITH BANSHEE?
DOES THAT ALLOW HER TO CONTROL HIS ACTIONS?
EEEEEEEE

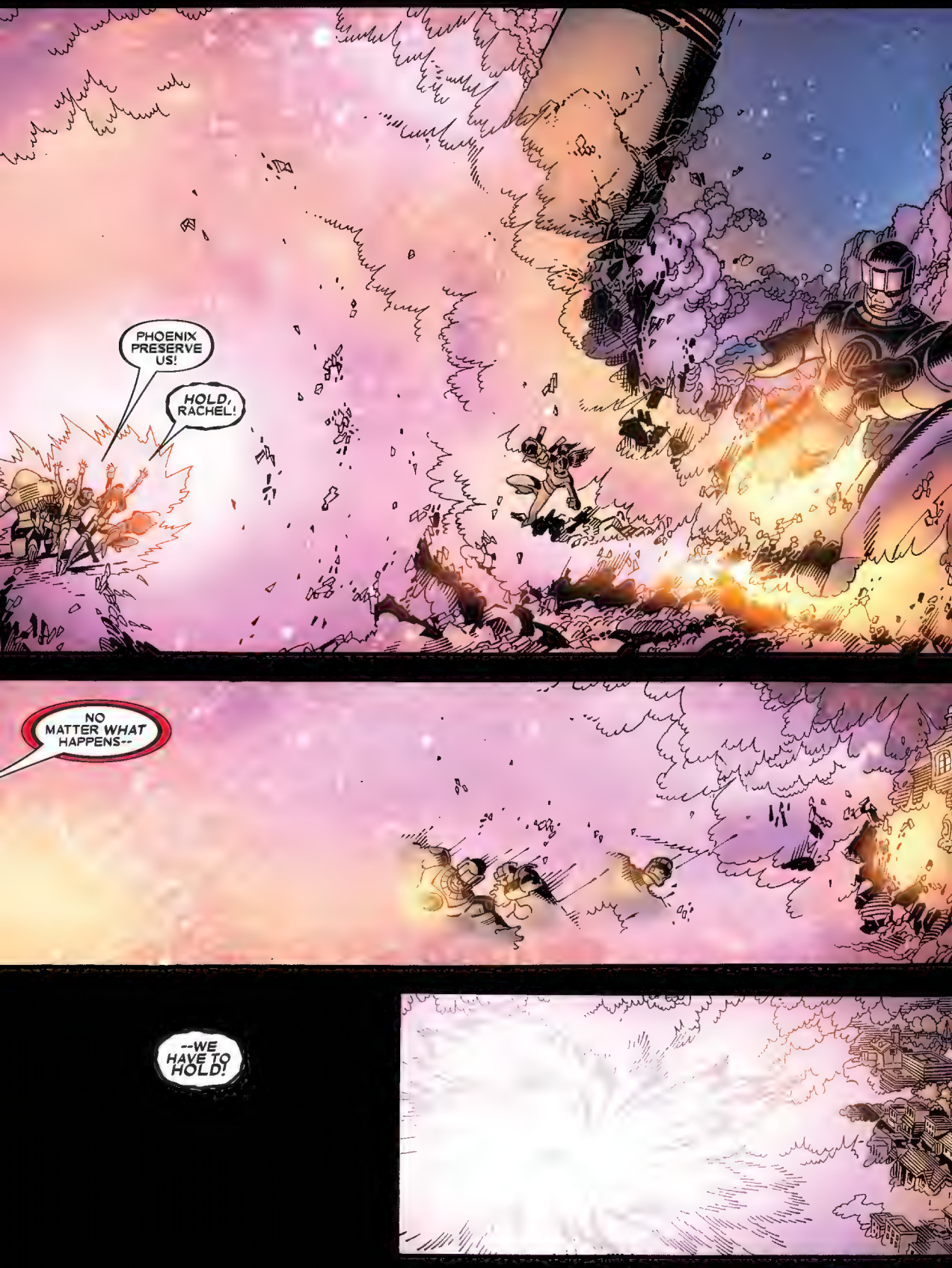

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BRADDOCK.
AND I DON'T CARE!
KRAOW!
MY TASK IS TO BRING YOU DOWN!
BRIAN--
--NO!
ZAM!
COURTNEY!

BACK YOU GO, MONSTER!
COURTNEY-- MY GOD, COURTNEY!
I KNOW SHE WAS HIS FIRST LOVE, BUT...
HOW COULD I HAVE POSSIBLY THOUGHT YOU EVIL!
...SEE HOW HE MOURNS FOR HER.
HOW CAN I COMPARE TO THAT?
NO.
THAT'S MY FEAR TALKING, THE GOBLIN THAT HAUNTS MY SOUL.
I WILL HAVE NONE OF IT.
THIS MAN IS MINE.
I WILL FIGHT FOR HIM.
AND OUR ENEMIES WILL BE THE ONES TO FALL.
MAJESTIES--
--WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

BRADDOCK, LEAVE THE ROBOTS TO US!
WE'LL BUY YOU TIME.
YOU SAVE THE WORLD!
LISTEN TO THE CAPTAINS, BRIAN.
WE HAVE TO GO.
FASTER'N SPEEDING BULLETS.
WHATTA SIGHT--
EH?!
YOU'RE HELPING US, WISDOM.
BLOB'S DOWN, CALLISTO'S DOWN--
--WHO'S LEFT?
T-REX!
THAT'S AN IMPRESSIVE TALENT YOU HAVE THERE, GIRL...
...AND YOU USE IT WICKED WELL!

YOU'RE NOT SO BAD YOURSELF, PSYLOCKE.
BRIAN!
NOW WHAT THE DEVIL IS THIS?!
I BELIEVE-- A HOLE IN CAUSALITY ITSELF.
THE BREACH THAT ROMA NEEDS SEALED.
WHY DOES THAT NAME SOUND FAMILIAR?
A VERY LONG STORY, I'M AFRAID.
FOR ANOTHER TIME, THEN, AFTER WE'VE WON.
IN YOUR DREAMS, TRAITORS.

BECAUSE IN REALITY, YOUR FUTURE WILL BE NASTY, BRUTISH AND VERY, VERY SHORT.
BETTS-- THE SENTINELS ARE CHANNELING ALL THEIR POWER THROUGH THE ΩMEGA!
SYNCH YOUR TEKE WITH MINE, RACHEL--
--FORM A SHIELD!
HER BLAST'S DEFLECTING INTO THE RIFT!
WATCH OUT FOR BACKLASH!


PHOENIX PRESERVE US!
HOLD, RACHEL!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS--
--WE HAVE TO HOLD!

WE'RE-- *ALIVE!*

BUT THE *LAND*--MY *REALM*--!

WE'RE NOT DONE YET, KIDS. WE STILL GOT THAT BREACH TO DEAL WITH. FOR SOME STRANGE REASON IT'S SMALLER AND GLOWING...BUT NOT GONE.

SO I'M GUESSIN' *THIS* "X" IS A *BAD* THING, AM I RIGHT?

ABSOLUTELY.

I'M GUESSIN' IT'S A HOLE, GOTTA BE *PLUGGED?*

INNAT CASE--

HEY!

--I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE *BETTER* TA DO THE JOB.

ROMA'S STARLIGHT CITADEL

DO IT, ROMA! FOR ALL OUR SAKES, DO IT *NOW!*

NOT YET, *SATURNYNE.*

DON'T *FAIL* ME, MY *CHAMPION.*

TIME IS FAR *SHORTER* THAN I *DARE* LET ON.

BRIAN BRADDOCK...
MEGGAN-- AGAIN, SOMEHOW SHE'S CHANNELING THE CELESTIAL GUARDIAN!
...IF YOU CANNOT SEAL THIS RIFT, IN A MATTER OF MINUTES...
...I MUST--I SHALL-- NULLIFY YOUR WORLD...
...AND YOUR ENTIRE DIMENSION.
BLOODY WOMAN, WHAT D'YOU THINK WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO?!
HUSH, NOW, MEGGAN. WE'LL DO THIS.
YOU ARE MY MORNING-STAR. YOU ARE THE LAUGHTER IN MY SOUL.
YOU ARE ALL--!
SHHH!
TELL ME LATER, MY LOVE.
I THINK I CAN FIX THIS. I CAN HARNESS THE POWERS OF THE BEYOND. I KNOW I CAN. IF YOU CAN SEAL THE TEAR...
IF WE'RE TALKIN' SOME KIND'A PLAN HERE, HEROES--
--CAN WE KICK IT INTO GEAR?!
MY POSSESSING YOU DIDN'T WORK BEFORE.
I'M NOT FIGHTING THIS TIME.
YOU'RE THE BOSS. MY STRENGTH IS YOURS.
ALL RIGHT, JUGGERNAUT, YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART.
YOU CAN RELAX.

HAPPY LANDINGS.
POP!
NOW, MEGGAN!
HER HERITAGE IS AS MUCH OF OTHERWORLD AS OF EARTH.
SHE SEEMS TO DRAW ENERGY FROM BOTH.
ALREADY, SHE'S GROWN LARGER THAN THE JUGGERNAUT!

GOOD LUCK!
YOU, TOO!
SHE'S THROUGH, BETSY!
THE REST IS UP TO US!
WE USE OUR STRENGTH TO CLOSE THE SEAMS OF THE TEAR...
...SO RACHEL CAN SEAL THEM.
BRIAN-- WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
GIVE ME A SECOND, DAMMIT!
HE SPEAKS MORE SHARPLY THAN HE WISHED.
BECAUSE HE'S MORE SCARED THAN HE'LL ADMIT.
BOTH HE AND MEGGAN CAN SURVIVE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE RIFT...
...BUT ONLY SHE CAN CLAIM THE PAN-DIMENSIONAL POWER OF BEYOND FOR HER OWN--
--IN EFFECT, TURNING THE FORCE OF THE CHAOS WAVE AGAINST IT, LIKE A LIVING LEVEE.
AT THAT FIRST SIGHT, HIS HEART CATCHES IN HIS THROAT AND ALL THE WORDS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY EVER SPOKEN BY HIM FADE TO INSIGNIFICANCE.
HE BEHOLDS IN HIS BELOVED THE PERSONIFICATION OF GLORY...
...AND KNOWS THAT BY HER SIDE, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

UNTIL HE SEES WHAT SHE'S UP AGAINST.
MEGGAN!
HE MAY BE A HERO, BUT HE'S ONLY HUMAN.
STOP IT, BROTHER, YOU HAVE TO STAY!
BETSY--SHE'S MY WIFE!
AND IF YOU FOLLOW YOUR HEART...
...IF YOU ABANDON YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A MONARCH, A HERO--
--A MAN--
--THEN ALL OUR WORK, OUR SACRIFICES, WILL BE FOR NOTHING.

YOU AND CAPTAIN BRITAIN--
--I AM YOUR LADY!
AND THIS, MY LOVE, IS WHAT I WAS BORN TO DO!

FINISH IT, RACHEL!

WHAT ABOUT MEGGAN?!
I KNOW, BUT THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE!
JUST DO AS YOU'RE BLOODY TOLD!

WHAT NOW?
WE WAIT FOR THE WAVE TO HIT THE RIFT...
...AND SEE IF OUR "STITCHES"...

...HOLD!

SO FAR, SO GOOD.
WHERE'S MEGGAN?

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING SO BEAUTIFUL?
BRIAN, WHAT ABOUT YOUR WIFE?!

THE COSMOS IS HEALING ITSELF BEFORE OUR VERY EYES.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
D'YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE JUST DONE?

THANK YOU, MEGGAN.
SLEEP WELL, MY LOVE.
HE KNOWS, RACHEL.

BELIEVE ME, HE KNOWS.

WOLVERINE #33

The New Avengers and the Astonishing X-Men met to discuss the fate of Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch--the daughter of the powerful mutant terrorist Magneto. After losing control of her reality-altering powers and suffering a total nervous breakdown, Wanda unleashed chaos upon the Avengers, killing and injuring many of their number. Magneto intervened and took his daughter to the devastated island-nation of Genosha, where Charles Xavier—Professor X, the founder of the X-Men—was to help her recover. Xavier failed, and now it is up to Wanda's friends and teammates to decide whether she will live or die. But Magneto, Wanda, and her brother Pietro disappear...

Then the world burns to white. Reality as we knew it is gone...

To be replaced by a society in which humans are the oppressed minority and mutants run the culture, ruling over all existing countries, religions, and politics. A kingdom united under the House of M.

HOUSE OF M

Agent James Howlett, otherwise known as the mutant Wolverine, is one of the elite S.H.I.E.L.D. Red Guard's most celebrated operatives. Along with his partner Raven Darkholme (a.k.a. Mystique), he carries out the most dangerous missions for Magneto's ruling government without fail.

But Wolverine hasn't been himself lately. His behavior has been reckless and erratic, and others fear he may have cracked...

THIS IS IT?
THERE'S NO AUDIO?
TOO MUCH WIND-NOISE ON THE DECK, SIR.
S.H.I.E.L.D. MOBILE HEADQUARTERS, HIGH ABOVE MANHATTAN.
"SO WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WAS SAID."
"THAT'S CORRECT, COLONAL SHAW. OUR LIP-READERS ARE WORKING ON IT, BUT...
"SIR, I DON'T MEAN TO CAST ASPERSIONS ON A FELLOW AGENT, BUT...
"...IT'S MYSTIQUE. IF SHE WANTED TO FOOL A LIP-READER, SHE COULD... EASILY. WITH HER MUTATION, IT WOULD BE--"
"I'M WELL AWARE OF AGENT MYSTIQUE'S ABILITIES, AGENT COLERIDGE."
"OF COURSE, SIR."
"NOW, WHAT, IF ANYTHING, DID THE MANY WITNESSES TO THIS MORNING'S ENTERTAINMENT OVERHEAR?"
"UM...AGAIN, IT'S VERY WINDY OUT THERE, BUT... ALMOST EVERYONE AGREED THAT THEY HEARD AGENT MYSTIQUE SCREAM, 'NO.'
"VERY LOUDLY."
"HMM..."

"YES, THAT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE..."
CHASING GHOSTS
PART ONE OF THREE

FOUR HOURS LATER. THE OFFICE OF SEBASTIAN SHAW, DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
COLONEL SHAW? YOU NEEDED TO SEE ME...?
YES, PLEASE... COME IN.
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT LOGAN.
YOU ALREADY HAVE MY REPORT, SIR--
MY DEAR, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT HIS SWAN DIVE FROM THE DECK OF THE 'CARRIER THIS MORNING...
...I'M TALKING ABOUT MEXICO.
TWO WEEKS AGO.
YOU HAVE MY REPORT ON THAT, AS WELL, SIR--
YES. YES, I DO.
YOURS AND LOGAN'S, ACTUALLY--BOTH OF WHICH ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY IDENTICAL. BUT YOU SEE, WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT ISN'T IN THESE REPORTS.
AND SINCE YOU AND LOGAN ARE SO...CLOSE...I BELIEVE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ME WITH A UNIQUE INSIGHT AS TO WHY THE CAPTAIN OF MY RED ARMY HAS LITERALLY JUMPED SHIP.
SO...
...LET'S START FROM THE BEGINNING, SHALL WE?

TWO WEEKS AGO. SOUTHEASTERN MEXICO. HIGH IN THE SIERRA MADRES.
"WE WERE DEPLOYED TO MEXICO TO TRACK DOWN AND RETRIEVE PAULA D'ONOFRIO, ASSISTANT PRESS SECRETARY TO THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS.
"SHE HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED WHILE ON VACATION WITH HER FAMILY BY A GROUP OF HUMAN GUERILLA FIGHTERS."
"DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THESE GUERILLAS WERE WORKING WITH THE HUMAN RESISTANCE?"
"NO, THIS WASN'T AN ATTEMPT TO ADVANCE ANY 'CAUSE'...THE ONLY THING THEY WANTED WAS TO NEGOTIATE A NICE, FAT RANSOM.
"UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, THE HOUSE OF M DOESN'T HAVE A NEGOTIATION POLICY."
I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU...

...MY BOYFRIEND'S THE JEALOUS TYPE.
¡MUTANTES!
"INSTEAD, THEY HAVE US."
SHLLLAKK!
SLUKK!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
AAAAIIIIEEEEEEEEEEE!
CHAK!
HHWUKKK!

SNAKT
BLAM!
CALL IN THE LIFT.
WE'RE DONE HERE.

TWO HOURS LATER. THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, MEXICO CITY.
SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THE DOLCE & GABBANA...
...OR THE VAN DYNE?
I LIKE THE BLUE ONE.
I KNOW YOU DO.

WE'LL PLAY "DIRTY OLD MAN" LATER.
ARE YOU ALMOST READY TO LEAVE?
VODKA
ALMOST...
OKAY. LET'S GO.
"FOR HOW LONG HAS LOGAN BEEN ABUSING DRUGS AND ALCOHOL?"

PERMISSION TO SPEAK FRANKLY, SIR?
BY ALL MEANS, DEAR.
THERE'S... A *RAGE* INSIDE LOGAN.
YOU KNOW THIS... YOU'VE EXPLOITED IT, YOURSELF, ON COUNTLESS OCCASIONS.
THAT'S ABSOLUTELY CORRECT.
AND, FOR THE SAKE OF MUTANTKIND, I MOST ASSUREDLY WOULD DO IT *AGAIN*.
BUT THAT'S JUST IT: AGAINST *WHOM?* THE WAR AGAINST THE HUMANS IS *OVER*.
THESE RECENT EVENTS IN MEXICO WOULD SEEM TO *CONTRADICT* THAT STATEMENT, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

LOGAN HAS SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE--*SEVERAL LIFETIMES*, IN FACT--FIGHTING A WAR.
AND EVEN THOUGH WE, AS A RACE, HAVE WON THAT WAR...
...HE, *PERSONALLY*, HAS LOST MORE THAN WE WILL EVER KNOW.
SO, YES, HE DOES TAKE PILLS. THEY HELP TO DULL THE PAIN.
AND YES, HE DOES DRINK. SOMETIMES IT EVEN MAKES HIM SMILE.
BUT NEITHER OF THESE THINGS HAS EVER COMPROMISED LOGAN'S ABILITIES AS AN AGENT OR A LEADER.
THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN MEXICO?
WE WERE *ALL* CAUGHT OFF-GUARD THAT NIGHT, SIR.

"THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WAS THROWING A DINNER PARTY, HOSTED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, TO CELEBRATE THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR NEW SENTINEL.
"A GIFT FROM THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS.
"LOTS OF LOW-LEVEL DIPLOMATS... THIS WAS ALL JUST A GLORIFIED PHOTO-OP, NOT REALLY A STATE DINNER.
"SINCE LOGAN AND I WERE ALREADY IN MEXICO, WE GOT FOLDED INTO THE SECURITY DETAIL. THE MARINES ALREADY HAD THE PLACE COVERED-- WE WERE THERE MORE AS AMBASSADORS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. THAN AS AGENTS."
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR EXCUSES, MYSTIQUE.
I KNOW THAT, SIR... AND I'M NOT "EXCUSING" ANYTHING.
I'M SIMPLY EXPLAINING THAT OUR PRESENCE SEEMED REDUNDANT-- AS FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED, OUR MISSION WAS OVER.
"IN RETROSPECT, WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE ASSIGNMENT MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY."
THIS IS A DAMN INSULT.
WHERE'S THE BAR?
OVER BY THE FOUNTAIN.
I'M GOING TO GO MINGLE.

"I SURVEILLED THE AREA...DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
"*DEVIN PRICE*, THE HOUSE OF M'S *FOREIGN RELATIONS MINISTER*, SEEMED TO BE THE HOT TICKET OUT ON THE FLOOR--EVERYONE WAS LINING UP TO MEET HIM.
"AFTER APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS, EVERYONE BEGAN TO TAKE THEIR SEATS...
"...AND A *TOAST* WAS MADE."
"WHERE WAS *LOGAN* DURING THIS PERIOD?"
"LOGAN?
"HE...HAD STATIONED HIMSELF NEAR THE FOUNTAIN."

GIMME ANOTHER--
"THAT'S WHERE IT ALL STARTED.
SNF
"THE ATTACK CAME OUT OF NOWHERE."

YYYAAAAAAAHHHHHH--!
"WEAPONIZED CORROSIVE ACID.
"THEY'D DONE THEIR HOMEWORK."

SNIKT
SNIKT
SSSHHLINK!
MYSTIQUE TO LOGAN-- THERE'S SCREAMING... CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHUKK!

SSSLLIK!
"ONCE LOGAN WAS DOWN...
"...THE RESISTANCE FIGHTERS MADE THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN.
"WE WERE SURROUNDED."

"WITH LOGAN NEUTRALIZED, I BECAME THE RANKING OFFICER.
"I TOOK CHARGE OF THE SITUATION."
BLAM!
GET DOWN!
NOW!
PRICE!
FIND PRICE!
HE'S UNDER THE TABLE!
NO! NOOOO!
C'MERE, YOU DAMNED MUTATION!
THE GENOCIDE MUST END!
PLEASE--!
THE HOUSE OF MAGNETO IS BUILT UPON THE BODIES OF MILLIONS OF MURDERED HUMAN BEINGS!
YOU-- YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!
SHUT UP!
I MEAN IT, SWEETIE...

...YOU REALLY DON'T WANNA DO THIS.
KWOPP!
CHUNK!

"THE MARINES THEN ARRIVED IN FORCE--
"--AND PROCEEDED TO DO WHAT MARINES DO."

THE ENTIRE THING HAPPENED IN LESS THAN THIRTY MINUTES. LUCKILY, ONLY NINE DIGNITARIES WERE INJURED AND ONLY TEN WERE KILLED.
PRICE ESCAPED WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A SCRATCH.
BUT THEN AGAIN, PRICE WASN'T THE INTENDED *TARGET.*
"IT WAS THE *SENTINEL.*
"AND THEY *GOT* IT."

YES.
"THEY" DID.
IT WAS A TACTICALLY BRILLIANT STRIKE, SIR...I DOUBT THAT THE REVOLUTIONARIES STATIONED INSIDE THE EMBASSY WERE EVEN AWARE OF THEIR TRUE PART IN THE MISSION.
OH, I AGREE.
I'D EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. COULDN'T HAVE PLANNED IT ANY BETTER.
SIR.
IF YOU'RE SUGGESTING THAT--
WHAT I'M SUGGESTING, AGENT MYSTIQUE....
...IS THAT YOU CALM YOURSELF.

DOES LOGAN EVER TALK TO YOU ABOUT HIS *PAST*?
NOT OFTEN.
I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT A PHOTOGRAPH.
AND I WANT YOU TO TELL ME IF YOU RECOGNIZE ANYONE *IN* THAT PHOTOGRAPH.
CAN YOU DO THAT?
OF COURSE I CAN.
I ***NEVER*** FORGET A FACE.
VERY GOOD.

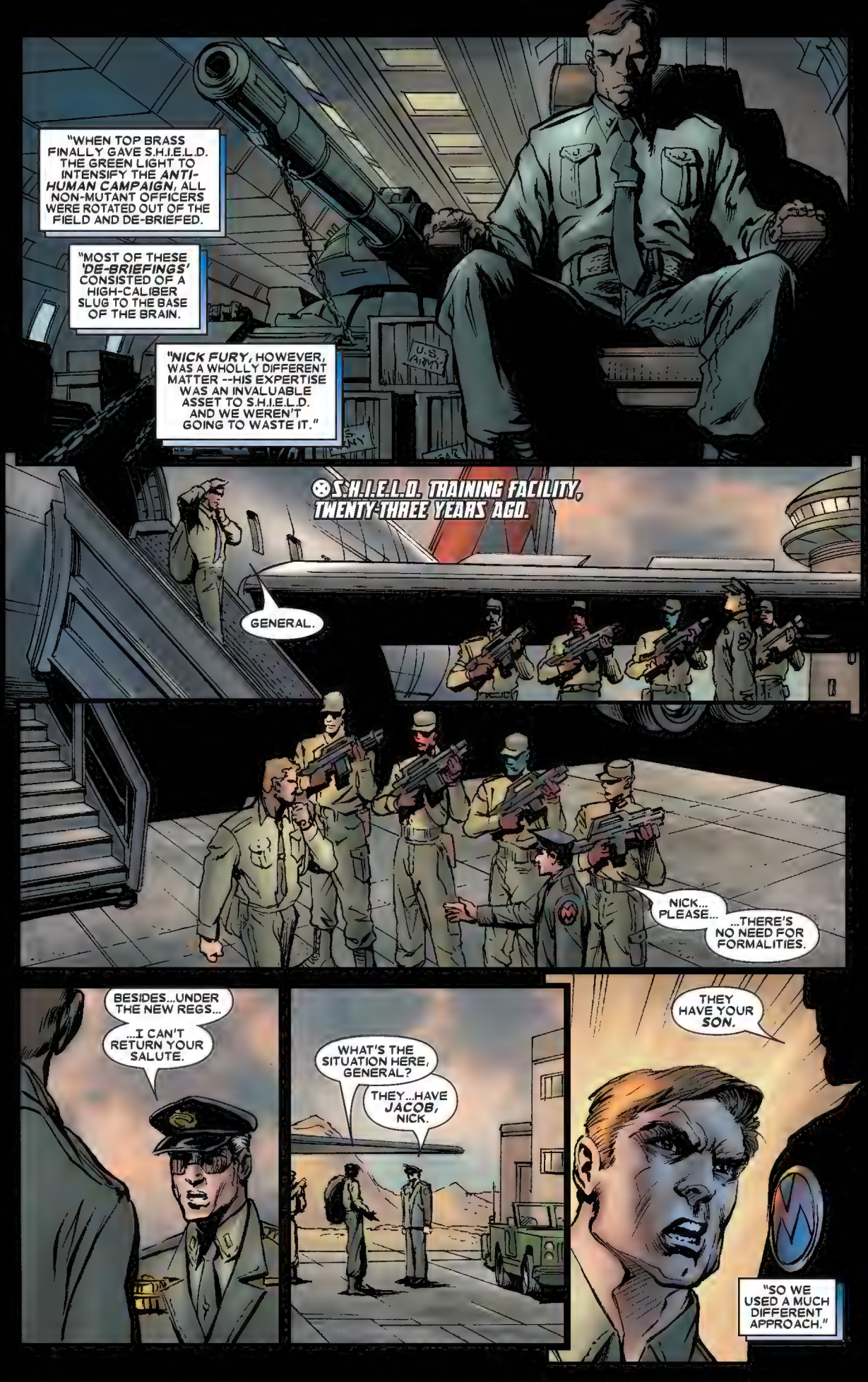
NOW... DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANYONE?
OF COURSE I DO.
THIS IS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY.
PLEASE... LOOK AT IT AGAIN.
PARTICULARLY, THE BOTTOM LEFT-HAND CORNER.
PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC...?
FOR THE LAST TIME, "SIR"--LOGAN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ATTACK.
IT WAS HIM.
FWAP!

IT WAS NICK FURY.

WOLVERINE #34

S.H.I.E.L.D. MOBILE COMMAND.
PLEASE... HUMOR ME-- I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT I'M ENTIRELY CLEAR ON THIS MATTER:
WHAT YOU ARE TELLING ME IS THAT NICK FURY WAS THE MASTERMIND BEHIND BOTH THE ATTACK ON THE MEXICAN EMBASSY AND THE SUBSEQUENT THEFT OF THE SENTINEL STATIONED THEREIN.
FURTHERMORE, YOU ARE TELLING ME THAT-- TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE--THERE WAS NO COLLUSION BETWEEN AGENT WOLVERINE AND NICK FURY.
I'M SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO COLLUSION, PERIOD.
SIR.
I SEE.
IN HIS DAY, FURY WAS ONE OF S.H.I.E.L.D.'S MOST PRIZED TACTICIANS... AND AN IMPECCABLE FIELD COMMANDER, AS WELL.
IT'S AN ABSOLUTE SHAME THAT THE POOR BASTARD WAS BORN HUMAN.
TAKING THESE FACTS INTO ACCOUNT, THE SCENARIO WHICH YOU'VE OUTLINED SEEMS ENTIRELY PLAUSIBLE.
EXCEPT FOR ONE THING:

CHASING GHOSTS
PART TWO OF THREE
NICK FURY HAS BEEN *DEAD* FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS.
...WHAT?


"WHEN TOP BRASS FINALLY GAVE S.H.I.E.L.D. THE GREEN LIGHT TO INTENSIFY THE *ANTI-HUMAN CAMPAIGN*, ALL NON-MUTANT OFFICERS WERE ROTATED OUT OF THE FIELD AND DE-BRIEFED.
"MOST OF THESE *'DE-BRIEFINGS'* CONSISTED OF A HIGH-CALIBER SLUG TO THE BASE OF THE BRAIN.
"*NICK FURY*, HOWEVER, WAS A WHOLLY DIFFERENT MATTER --HIS EXPERTISE WAS AN INVALUABLE ASSET TO S.H.I.E.L.D. AND WE WEREN'T GOING TO WASTE IT."
U.S. ARMY
S.H.I.E.L.D. TRAINING FACILITY, TWENTY-THREE YEARS AGO.
GENERAL.
NICK... PLEASE...
...THERE'S NO NEED FOR FORMALITIES.
BESIDES...UNDER THE NEW REGS...
...I CAN'T RETURN YOUR SALUTE.
WHAT'S THE SITUATION HERE, GENERAL?
THEY...HAVE *JACOB*, NICK.
THEY HAVE YOUR *SON*.
"SO WE USED A MUCH DIFFERENT APPROACH."

THEY WANT YOU, NICK... THEY WANT YOU TO TRAIN A HAND-PICKED SQUAD, DESIGNATION "*RED GUARD.*" WHEN THE SQUAD'S TRAINING IS COMPLETE, YOU AND JACOB WILL BE FREE TO LEAVE.
YOU WILL BOTH, OF COURSE, STILL BE KEPT UNDER *SURVEILLANCE* AFTER YOUR RELEASE...
...BUT YOU'LL BE *ALIVE*.
THEY HAVE *MY* FAMILY, TOO, NICK--EVEN MY GRANDKIDS.
IF THEY'RE LYING TO *YOU* THEN THEY'RE LYING TO *ME, TOO*... AND OUR FAMILIES ARE ALREADY DEAD.
IF THEY'RE NOT LYING, THEN THERE'S STILL A CHANCE.
I'M WILLING TO TAKE THAT CHANCE... AND I HOPE YOU KNOW--AFTER ALL THESE YEARS--THAT THAT'S THE ONLY REASON THAT I'M ASKING YOU TO DO THE SAME.
I'LL DO IT. SIR.

THANK YOU.
TAKE ME TO MY CELL.
NOW.
YOU WON'T BE IN A CELL, NICK-- YOU'LL BE HOUSED IN AN APARTMENT HERE IN THE COMPOUND. IT SHOULD BE RELATIVELY COMFORTABLE.
...AND ONE MORE THING:
THE MEN WILL NO LONGER BE ADDRESSING YOU AS "SIR."
THEN... WHAT'RE THEY GONNA CALL ME?
SIR?
FURY
YO, NICKY!

I AM NICK FURY.
YOU ARE NOBODY.
OH, NO! WHERE DID MY BODY GO?
LET'S SEE HERE... OKAY...
...TRAVIS SPANGLER.
CODENAME: "EARSHOT."
GUESS THAT WAS YOU, HUH?
YYYAHTZEE!
ACTUALLY, I CAN THROW MY VOICE ALMOST A HUNDRED YARDS IN ANY DIRECTION--AND I CAN VARY THE DECIBEL LEVEL FROM A FAINT WHISPER TO LOUD ENOUGH TO RUPTURE YOUR EARDRUMS.
WOW.
GRK--!

LESSON ONE: COVER.
COVER IS THE CURTAIN BEHIND WHICH AN AGENT OPERATES.
YOUR CODENAME IS PART OF YOUR COVER--IT SHOULD BE AN IDENTIFIER PURPOSEFULLY DEVOID OF MEANING.
YOUR MOST EFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST YOUR ENEMY IS THE WEAPON YOUR ENEMY DOES NOT KNOW ABOUT.
IF YOUR CODENAME INDICATES THE NATURE OF YOUR MUTANT ABILITIES, YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR ENEMY AN ADVANTAGE--YOU HAVE GIVEN HIM INFORMATION.
AND THEY WILL USE IT TO NEUTRALIZE YOU.
GET UP AN' FALL IN, TRAVIS.
SEE, NOW--HERE'S ANOTHER ONE:
"WOLVERINE."
A FUZZY, STUMPY LITTLE VARMINT WITH BIG CLAWS AND A BAD ATTITUDE.
HMM...

...WHO COULD THAT BE?
WOLVERINES LIKE TO DIG HOLES -- IS THAT WHAT YOU DO?
ARE YOU A REAL GOOD DIGGER?
I DON'T DIG HOLES.
I FILL 'EM.
OOH...LOOK AT THIS:
I GOT ME A DYED-IN-THE-WOOL KILLER, HERE.
LEMME TELL YOU SOMETHING, BOY: ANYBODY CAN KILL-- THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' SPECIAL ABOUT IT.
SO I'M GONNA SHOW YOU HOW TO DO SOMETHIN' ELSE: I'M GONNA TEACH YOU HOW TO LEAD.
TAKE IT TO THE FRONT.
I'M DESIGNATING YOU SQUAD LEADER.

IT WAS ON FURY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT I LATER APPOINTED LOGAN AS *HEAD* OF THE GUARD, ACTUALLY.
I DIDN'T REALIZE...
WERE LOGAN AND FURY...?
FRIENDS?
NO. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THEY ABSOLUTELY *HATED* ONE ANOTHER.
"THE SITUATION CAME TO A HEAD VERY *QUICKLY*, AS I REMEMBER."

I WILL NOT TOLERATE DISSENSION IN THE RANKS-- ANYBODY WHO HAS A PROBLEM WITH ANOTHER SQUAD MEMBER WILL WORK IT OUT...
...IN THAT CIRCLE.
WHAT IF WE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOU?
WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT...
...I KNEW YOU WERE A LEADER.

SO... HOW DO WE DO THIS?
WE DO IT TILL IT'S DONE.

KRAK!
"HOW TO FIGHT AN' THINK AT THE SAME TIME."
TODAY'S LESSON IS:

THE ONLY TIME YOU SHOULD CONFRONT AN ENEMY FACE-TO-FACE IS WHEN YOU WANNA TALK.
IF, HOWEVER, AN ENGAGEMENT OCCURS...
...TAKE 'EM DOWN FAST AN' DON'T LET UP.
OTHERWISE, YOU RUN THE RISK OF--
AAAHH!
SNIKT
"LOGAN... KILLED FURY?"

WE DON'T KNOW--ONLY ONE POSSIBLE SUSPECT WAS EVER IDENTIFIED.
"TRAVIS SPANGLER, CODENAME: *EARSHOT*.
OOPS.
WHOA...
HEY, *SORRY*-- I...
I...I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE, OKAY?
"SPANGLER'S *MOTIVATIONS* SEEMED CLEAR ENOUGH--FURY HAD THOROUGHLY DENIGRATED HIM IN FRONT OF HIS TEAMMATES, AFTER ALL.
"BUT FRANKLY...
"...I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE ACTED ALONE."
N.F.I Motor Pool 0615 Hrs.
Do your thing. I've done mine.
a Friend

THE NEXT MORNING, 0600 HOURS.
WHERE THE HELL IS SPANGLER?
I AIN'T COMIN' INTO WORK TODAY, BOSS.
SORRY.
NOPE.
UH-UH.
WARMER...
WARMER...
KEEP ROLLIN'...
KEEP ROLLIN'...

YAHTZEE.
GAS DEPOT
NO SMOKING
SNF!
NICE TOUCH.
DEE-DEE-DEET!

WHUFF-BWWOOOM!

SPANGLER--
OR "EARSHOT" AS
HE WAS KNOWN--
COMMITTED SUICIDE
TWO DAYS BEFORE HIS
COURT-MARTIAL.
WAS FURY'S *BODY*
EVER FOUND?
HE
COULD'VE SET
UP THAT WHOLE
SCENARIO TO PROVIDE
COVER FOR HIS
ESCAPE...ALL HE'D
NEED IS AN--
EXACTLY.
TELL ME
WHAT HAPPENED
WHEN YOU VISITED
LOGAN IN THE
INFIRMARY....*AFTER*
THE ATTACK ON THE
EMBASSY.

HE...
"...HE WASN'T THERE."

YES. YES, HE WASN'T THERE.
AND ACCORDING TO YOUR REPORT BY THE TIME YOU CAUGHT UP TO HIM--THREE DAYS LATER--HE HAD ALREADY LOCATED AND ENGAGED FURY.
THAT'S CORRECT.
HMM...
THAT'S QUITE REMARKABLE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
MY NEXT QUESTION IS-- WELL, IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS, REALLY...
HOW DID LOGAN KNOW THAT IT WAS FURY HE WAS LOOKING FOR?
I...
I DON'T KNOW.

RRRRRRRAAAAAAAH!!
SNIKT
SNIKT
CHIK
CHUK!
F-WUMP!
I'VE SAID IT BEFORE: YOUR MOST *EFFECTIVE* WEAPON AGAINST YOUR ENEMY...
...IS THE WEAPON YOUR ENEMY DOES NOT *KNOW* ABOUT.

CLASS DISMISSED.
HHUUHHH...
YOU.
ONE OF THESE DAYS, YOU--
AND ALL YOUR KIND--
...ARE GONNA GO DOWN HARD.
AAARRRGGHH!
SHK!

AN' I'M GONNA BE THE ONE WHO DOES IT.

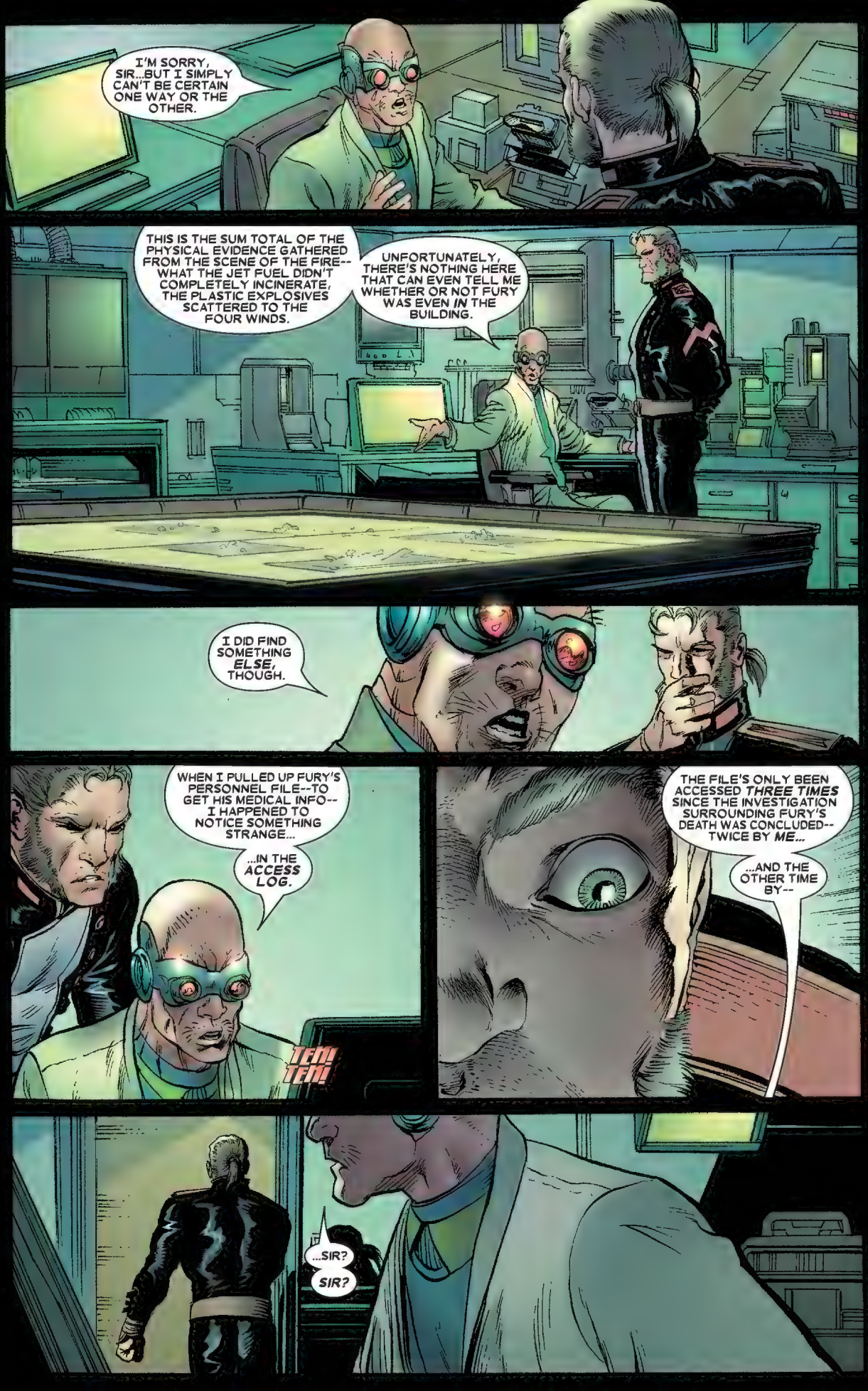
WOLVERINE #35

S.H.I.E.L.D. MEDICAL FACILITY, THIRTEEN DAYS AGO.
DON'T FOLLOW
...MYSTIQUE?
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
WHERE'S LOGAN?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT.
GIVE ME AT LEAST FIFTEEN MINUTES BEFORE YOU NOTIFY SHAW--THAT SHOULD BE ALL I NEED.
"DON'T FOLLOW."

TELL ME, MYSTIQUE...DO YOU BELIEVE THAT LOGAN LEFT THIS MESSAGE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU?
S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND OFFICE OF SEBASTIAN SHAW.
SHIELD
YES.
I SEE.
AND DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS MESSAGE WAS TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY...OR METAPHORICALLY?
...SIR?
FOR THE SAKE OF BREVITY, I'LL FORGIVE YOUR FEIGNED IGNORANCE.
ONCE.
NOW PLEASE-- ANSWER THE QUESTION.
LOGAN...
...ISN'T THE POETIC TYPE.

HEH... WELL SAID.
AND YET--
--YOU DID FOLLOW HIM.
ALONE.
BECAUSE LOGAN MIGHT'VE *KILLED* ANYONE ELSE THAT--!
EFFECTIVELY *DISOBEYING* A DIRECT ORDER.
AND YOU COMPROMISED AGENT DREW BY REQUESTING THAT SHE DELAY NOTIFYING ME OF LOGAN'S A.W.O.L. STATUS.
I...
...HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR MY ACTIONS, SIR.
THEN YOU MUST ADMIT:
I DO.
TAKE HER TO THE BRIG.

SEVEN HOURS LATER.
NO ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE, WHATSOEVER?
NO, SIR-- SHE DIDN'T EVEN SAY ANYTHING AS WE LOCKED HER UP.
DAMN.
SIR? ISN'T THAT... WHAT WE WANTED?
NO.
FORENSICS ENTER
KEEP ME INFORMED OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.
ANY.
YES, SIR.
YES OR NO?
I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR?
NICK FURY.
DEAD.
YES OR NO?

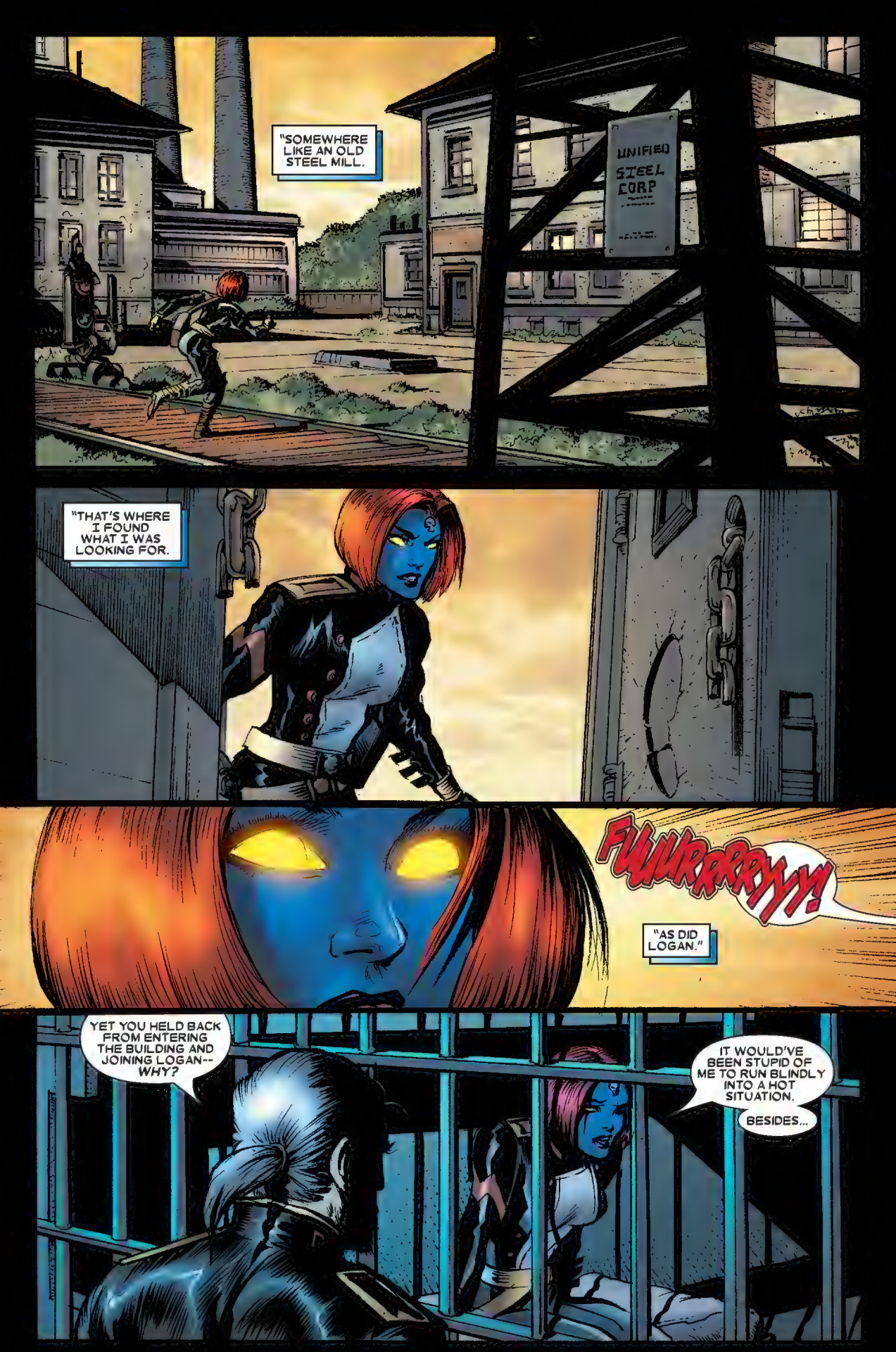

I'M SORRY, SIR...BUT I SIMPLY CAN'T BE CERTAIN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
THIS IS THE SUM TOTAL OF THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE GATHERED FROM THE SCENE OF THE FIRE--WHAT THE JET FUEL DIDN'T COMPLETELY INCINERATE, THE PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES SCATTERED TO THE FOUR WINDS.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S NOTHING HERE THAT CAN EVEN TELL ME WHETHER OR NOT FURY WAS EVEN *IN* THE BUILDING.
I DID FIND SOMETHING *ELSE*, THOUGH.
WHEN I PULLED UP FURY'S PERSONNEL FILE--TO GET HIS MEDICAL INFO--I HAPPENED TO NOTICE SOMETHING STRANGE...
...IN THE *ACCESS LOG.*
TEK! TEK!
THE FILE'S ONLY BEEN ACCESSED *THREE TIMES* SINCE THE INVESTIGATION SURROUNDING FURY'S DEATH WAS CONCLUDED--TWICE BY *ME*...
...AND THE OTHER TIME BY--
...SIR?
SIR?

LET'S START OVER, SHALL WE?
DOES LOGAN EVER TALK TO YOU ABOUT HIS PAST?
I *TOLD* YOU--NOT OFTEN.
BUT WHEN HE DOES...WHAT DOES HE TALK *ABOUT?*
HE TALKS ABOUT HOW THE WORLD WAS ***BEFORE*** THE RISE OF MUTANTKIND.
HOW-- EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ***DESPISED*** FOR BEING WHAT HE IS--HE SOMEHOW FELT...THAT HE ***BELONGED*** IN THAT WORLD.
BECAUSE HE HAD A ***PURPOSE...***

"...AND HOW THAT'S ALL GONE, NOW."
BABY... PLEASE...
AIN'T LIKE IT'S GONNA HURT ME.
IT HURTS ME, LOGAN.
Y'DON'T UNDERSTAND-- THIS...
LITTLE BIT O' DEATH...
...IS THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES ME FEEL ALIVE ANYMORE.
BECAUSE THE DAMNED WAR IS OVER?!
WHEN WILL YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE WORTH MORE THAN THE SUM TOTAL OF YOUR ENEMIES?
I DON'T HAVE ENEMIES. NOT ANYMORE.
THEY WERE ONLY HUMANS, LOGAN--THEY WERE NOTHING!
NO. NOT ALL OF 'EM.
THERE WAS ONE...

BECAUSE HE HAD A PURPOSE.
HMM...
HOW DID YOU TRACK LOGAN DOWN?
THE SAME WAY LOGAN TRACKED DOWN FURY.
DO TELL.
YOU ASSUMED-- BECAUSE IT PLAYS INTO YOUR "COLLUSION" THEORY--THAT LOGAN SOMEHOW KNEW THAT IT WAS FURY HE WAS AFTER THE WHOLE TIME.
HE DIDN'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO KNOW THAT AT ALL.
THE SOLE REASON THAT THE EMBASSY WAS TARGETED BY FURY WAS BECAUSE HE WANTED THE SENTINEL.
THEREFORE, I KNEW-- JUST AS LOGAN DID-- THAT IF I LOCATED THE SENTINEL, I'D FIND WHO I WAS LOOKING FOR.

"I KNEW THAT THE SENTINEL ITSELF WASN'T DESTINED TO BE SOLD--"
"HOW DID YOU KNOW THIS?"
"THERE ARE NO *BUYERS*-- THERE'S NO MARKET FOR SOMETHING ON THAT SCALE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A MARKET FOR INFORMATION PERTAINING TO SENTINELS... PARTICULARLY, HOW TO DESTROY THEM.
Mexico
N
"BUT IN ORDER TO EXTRACT THAT INFORMATION, THE HIJACKERS WOULD HAVE TO DO A CHOP-JOB ON THE CHASSIS AND THEN PHYSICALLY REMOVE THE SENTINEL'S DATA CORE--AND, DUE TO THE SENTINEL'S SHEER SIZE, THEY'D HAVE TO DO IT SOMEWHERE CLOSE TO THE EMBASSY.
"SOMEWHERE *SECLUDED* PREFERABLY, WITH EQUIPMENT ALREADY ON-SITE."


"SOMEWHERE LIKE AN OLD STEEL MILL.
UNIFIED STEEL CORP
"THAT'S WHERE I FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.
FUUURRRRYYY!
"AS DID LOGAN."
YET YOU HELD BACK FROM ENTERING THE BUILDING AND JOINING LOGAN-- WHY?
IT WOULD'VE BEEN STUPID OF ME TO RUN BLINDLY INTO A HOT SITUATION.
BESIDES...

"...LOGAN CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF."
SNKT

BRAT TA TA TAT
BRAT TA TA TAT

CHUNK
BRAT TA TA TAT
UGHK!
BRAT TA TA TAT

KRAK!

SNIF
BOO.

"THE ONLY TIME YOU SHOULD CONFRONT AN ENEMY FACE-TO-FACE...
"...IS WHEN YOU WANNA TALK."
SNIKT
WHOOOOOOOOOOOSH
SO START TALKIN'.

I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT:
THE HOUSE OF M WILL *FALL.*
BECAUSE OF *YOU.*
YOU GOT SLOPPY. YOU GOT WEAK. AND BECAUSE OF THAT...
...*WE* GOT THE SENTINEL.
AS WE SPEAK, CELLS OF RESISTANCE FIGHTERS POSITIONED AROUND THE GLOBE ARE RECEIVING ALL THE DATA THEY'LL NEED TO NEUTRALIZE THE SENTINELS PATROLLING THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTORS.
ONCE THAT'S ACCOMPLISHED, THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN US AND OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS THE *RED GUARD.*
MEANING YOU.
MEANING *NOTHING.*
YOU KEEP ON *THINKIN'* THAT, NICK.
'CAUSE I'M *COMIN'* FER YOU--I'LL KILL EVERY HUMAN ON THIS PLANET IF I HAVE TO, JUST TO FIND YOU.
EVER SINCE THE END OF THE WAR, I'VE JUST BEEN KILLIN' TIME... BUT NOW, I'M GONNA KILL *YOU.* AN' THIS TIME...
...YER GONNA *STAY* DEAD.

HEH.
SEE YA THEN.
BY THE WAY-- WE HAVE COMPANY.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO TELL HER TO STAND CLEAR...
CHM!
MYSTIQUE!
DEE-DEET! DEE-DEE!
FFWOOOOM!

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
RRRRNNNN--!
CHANK!
BWWOOMM!

BOOM BOOM BOOM
ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?
I AM NOW.
"DON'T YOU THINK THAT WAS A BIT... SELFISH?"

HE...HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO--

NO, NO, NO--I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT *LOGAN*...

...I'M TALKING ABOUT *YOU*.

WHAT ARE YOU--?

WHEN DID YOU *FIRST* HEAR FURY'S NAME?

"I HEARD *LOGAN* SAY IT."

FUUURRRRYYY!

WHEN?

AT THE *STEEL M--*

NO.

IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN AT *LEAST TWO* MONTHS AGO.

NO.

THERE WAS *ONE*...

...HIS NAME WAS NICK FURY.

BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN YOU FIRST *ACCESSED* FURY'S PERSONNEL FILE.
I...I LOVE HIM, SHAW.
YOU "*LOVE*" HIM.
SO YOU GAVE HIM THE *ONE* THING THAT HE COULD NOT LIVE WITHOUT:
YOU GAVE HIM BACK HIS *WAR*.
THE ATTACK ON THE MEXICAN EMBASSY--POSSIBLY EVEN THE KIDNAPPING...
THE THEFT AND DISMANTLING OF THE SENTINEL...
THE SHOWDOWN AT THE STEEL MILL...
...*YOU* ORCHESTRATED ALL OF IT.
YOU...
WERE...
...NICK FURY.

CONGRATULATIONS.
IN MY DEFENSE, I INCURRED ONLY HUMAN CASUALTIES... AND THE SENTINEL SPECS, OF COURSE, WERE NEVER TRANSMITTED.
I DESTROYED THE DATA, *PERSONALLY.*
HOWEVER, I AM FULLY PREPARED TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTIONS...*WHATEVER* THEY MAY BE.
GOOD.
I WANT YOU TO START *IMMEDIATELY.*
CHANK!
YOU'RE... *RELEASING* ME?
YES. LIKE I SAID, I WANT YOU TO START *IMMEDIATELY.*

YOU SENT HIM ON THIS CHASE...
...YOU BRING HIM BACK.
CHASING GHOSTS
CONCLUSION

IRON MAN: HOUSE OF M #1

Mutants rule the world. Homo sapiens, few in number, cling to the margins, warming themselves on the last faint flickers of life before extinction.

The new masters won by changing the past. Those who would fight to restore the human order have been given impossible new lives, impossible new histories to keep them occupied.

Tony Stark's genius and business savvy have made Stark Enterprises one of the biggest corporations on the planet, making Tony the world's most successful Sapien. But he's just that...a Sapien. And in a world run by mutants, a Sapien can only go so high.

Tony also owes much of his success to his father, Howard Stark, who continues to aid and advise him in the running of Stark Enterprises. For all his success, Tony has never really stepped out of his father's long shadow...

HOUSE OF M

DESTROY... ALL...SAPIENS!
HOOO BOY...
AND TONY STARK DODGES DEATH ONCE AGAIN!
BUT BENEATH THAT ARMOR, HE'S JUST A SAPIEN! AN EVOLUTIONARY DEAD END, A FLATSCAN IN A WORLD RUN BY MUTANTS!
HE CAN'T DEFEAT THE GREATEST WEAPONS OF THE HOUSE OF M!
HE CAN'T BUCK THE INEVITABLE EVOLUTIONARY DECLINE OF HIS RACE!
HE CAN'T SO MUCH AS HOPE TO SURVIVE ANOTHER THREE SECONDS--

OR CAN HE?

TOOOOONYYYYY STAAAAARK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THE GREAT SAPIEN HOPE!

HA!

HE RULES THE WORLD OF BUSINESS! HE ROCKS THE RING OF GLADIATORS! AND HE'S DARN CUTE TO BOOT!

HEY, WHAT AM I, CHOPPED LIVER?

THAT'S YOUNG JOHNNY STORM YOU HEAR, SPORTS FANS, RIGHT THROUGH HIS ON-AIR HELMET MIKE, AND YOU BET HE'S MORE THAN CHOPPED--

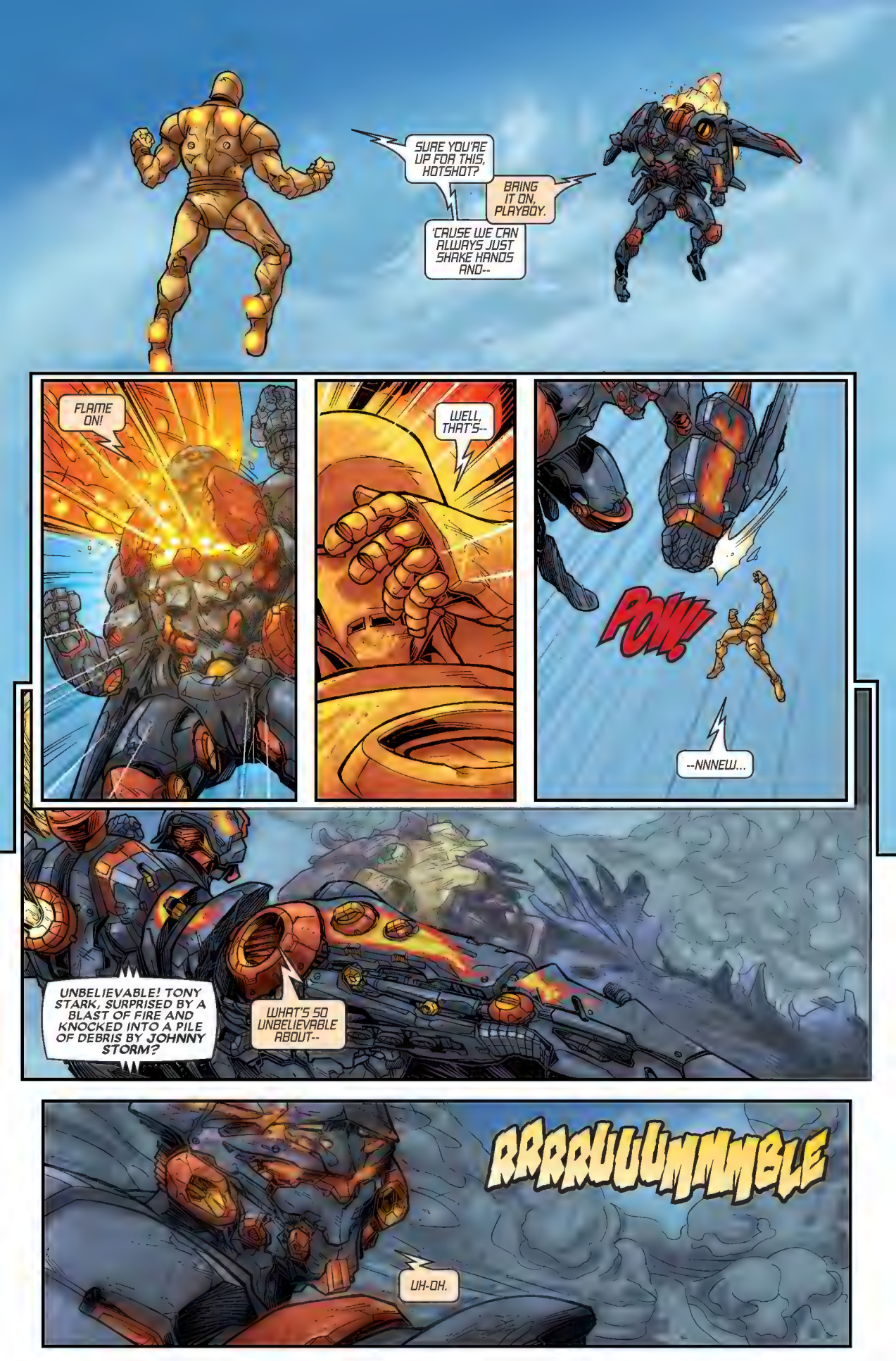
I LIKE TO THINK OF HIM AS FRESH MEAT.

GOOD ONE, TONY! AND APPROPRIATE. BECAUSE WITH ALL OTHER FIGHTERS AND SENTINELS DOWN, IT LOOKS LIKE YOUNG JOHNNY'S IN FOR...

...A ONE-ON-ONE BATTLE WITH TONY STARK HIMSELF!

CHAPTER 1

Father's day


SURE YOU'RE UP FOR THIS, HOTSHOT?
BRING IT ON, PLAYBOY.
'CAUSE WE CAN ALWAYS JUST SHAKE HANDS AND--
FLAME ON!
WELL, THAT'S--
POW!
--NNNEUU...
UNBELIEVABLE! TONY STARK, SURPRISED BY A BLAST OF FIRE AND KNOCKED INTO A PILE OF DEBRIS BY JOHNNY STORM?
WHAT'S SO UNBELIEVABLE ABOUT--
RRRRUUUMMMBLE
UH-OH.

YOW!
TOOONYYYY STAAARK! BURROWING UNDERGROUND TO TAKE JOHNNY STORM OUT FROM BELOW! IT'S AN UPSET--LITERALLY!
IT'S OVER, JOHNNY.
YOU BET IT IS.
WOOOOO-HOOOOO!
I LOVE THIS GAAAAAME!
CRUNCH
SO DO WE, JOHNNY! SO DO WE!
TONY STARK, LAID LOW BY THE ONLY OPPONENT WHO'S EVER MANAGED TO BEAT HIM...
IT'S OVER, TONY.
IF YOU SAY SO...

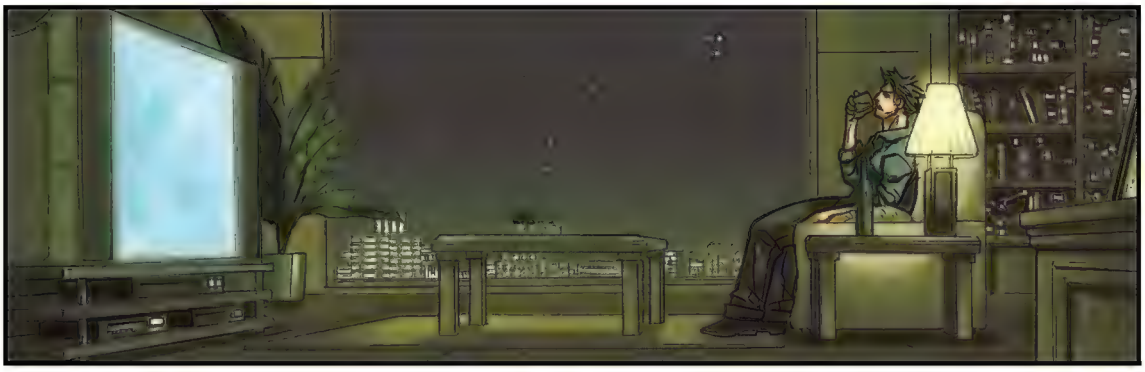
...DAD.
EMERGING FROM THE GIANT ROBOT'S COCKPIT-- HOWARD STARK! THE OLD MAN! THE KILLA CODGER! THE GRAY-HAIRED GLADIATOR--
--AND THE WINNER OF THIS WEEK'S SAPIEN DEATH MATCH!
HE'S RETIRED FROM THE BUSINESS WORLD, BUT WE HOPE HE NEVER RETIRES FROM THE ARENA!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YA, TONY? YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH NOT TO GET SNUCK UP ON LIKE THAT.
I JUST HATE TO SEE AN OLD MAN CRY.
THAT'S RIGHT, SPORTS FANS! JOHNNY STORM, RUNNING WITH THE BIG DOGS!
STANDING ON THE PODIUM! LOOKIN' GOOD, BAYBEH!
SAPIEN DEATH MATCH IS AN MBC PRODUCTION. THE GIANT ROBOTS DEPICTED IN THIS PROGRAM ARE NOT ACTUAL SENTINELS. REAL SENTINELS AND OTHER AGENTS OF THE HOUSE OF M CANNOT BE DEFEATED BY SAPIENS AND SHOULD NEVER BE RESISTED. PLEASE DO NOT TRY THESE STUNTS AT HOME.
AW, AIN'T THAT TOUCHING? AND JUST IN TIME FOR FATHER'S DAY. THIS IS FLASH THOMPSON, FOR MBC PRODUCTIONS, SIGNING OFF. SEE YA NEXT WEEK, SPORTS FANS!

STARK INDUSTRIES--
CHICAGO
MR. STARK, WE'RE IN TROUBLE IN PERSONAL COMPUTING...
YOU TALKING ABOUT WYNGARDE?
ON WEDNESDAY HE'S GOING TO INTRODUCE A NEW SIX-OUNCE MINI-PAD WITH NANOTUBE MEMORY. IT'S GOING TO BLOW OUR P-7 OUT OF THE WATER.
GOOD THING I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE Q-1, THEN.
YOU--
WYNGARDE'S BLIND-- HIS CHIP CANYONS AREN'T SHARP ENOUGH. THIS'LL WORK MUCH BETTER-- REPEATABILITY SHOULD BE SPOT-ON.
WOW.
WE'LL ANNOUNCE WEDNESDAY, A HALF HOUR BEFORE WYNGARDE'S PRESS CONFERENCE.
THAT'S MY BOY.
WOW.
YOU ALREADY SAID THAT.
YOU *SURE* HE'S NOT A MUTANT?

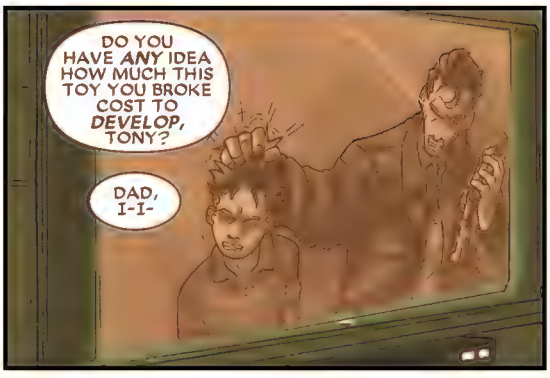
HANK, FORGE-- YOU REMEMBER THIS OL' GEEZER, DONTCHA?
MR. STARK!
SIR!
AS YOU WERE, GENTLEMEN, AS YOU WERE. NOW WHAT IS THIS YOU'RE WORKING ON?
WE CALL IT THE VISION PROJECT. THE MOST SOPHISTICATED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMBINED WITH THE MOST ADVANCED MECHANICAL BODY.
IT'LL WALK AND TALK AND COOK BREAKFAST, EH?
AND DO YOUR TAXES AND BABYSIT YOUR KIDS.
VERY NICE, VERY NICE.
HANK, HOW'S THE OBJECT RECOGNITION SYSTEM COMING ALONG?
SOME OF THE SAME GLITCHES, BUT WE'VE JUST GOT IN NEW PROCESSORS, WHICH WE'RE--
ALL RIGHT... THIS IS THE KIND OF CONVERSATION AN OL' CHAIRMAN EMERITUS DOESN'T NEED TO SIT IN ON.
SORRY, DAD. I'LL--
NO, NO, YOU GO AHEAD. I'M JUST GOING TO POKE AROUND A BIT.
LONG TIME, NO SEE, PYM.

LATER...
DAD?
HEY, THERE YOU ARE. WANNA GET SOMETHING TO EAT?
SURE, I--
WHAT'S THAT?
SOME FANCY DNA PROJECT *DOC PYM* HERE IS WORKING ON. IT'S ALL MUMBO JUMBO TO ME.
PYM?
IT'S JUST A GENOME-MAPPING PROJECT, TONY. NOTHING SPECIAL. I THINK YOU'LL BE MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN THE MIRACLE RICE RESEARCH. LET ME SHOW YOU--
THAT'S THE *MUTANT* GENOME, ISN'T IT?
I...

WHAT THE HELL IS *WRONG* WITH YOU, PYM?
HOWARD, IT'S A Q-Q-QUESTION OF SCIENCE! PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE, FREEDOM OF-OF-OF--
YOU IDIOT. IT'S EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN! THE MUTANTS *RUN* THIS WORLD...DO YOU THINK THEY WANT US MAPPING THEIR GENOME, EXPOSING THEIR VULNERABILITIES, GIVING THE SAPIEN RESISTANCE THE MEANS TO *DESTROY* THEM?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT'S *RIDICULOUS.* I WOULD NEVER--
TONY, TELL HIM!
ENOUGH. SHUT IT DOWN OR YOU'RE FIRED, PYM.
TONY...
OR I COULD FIRE YOU RIGHT NOW.
...
DAD, I...



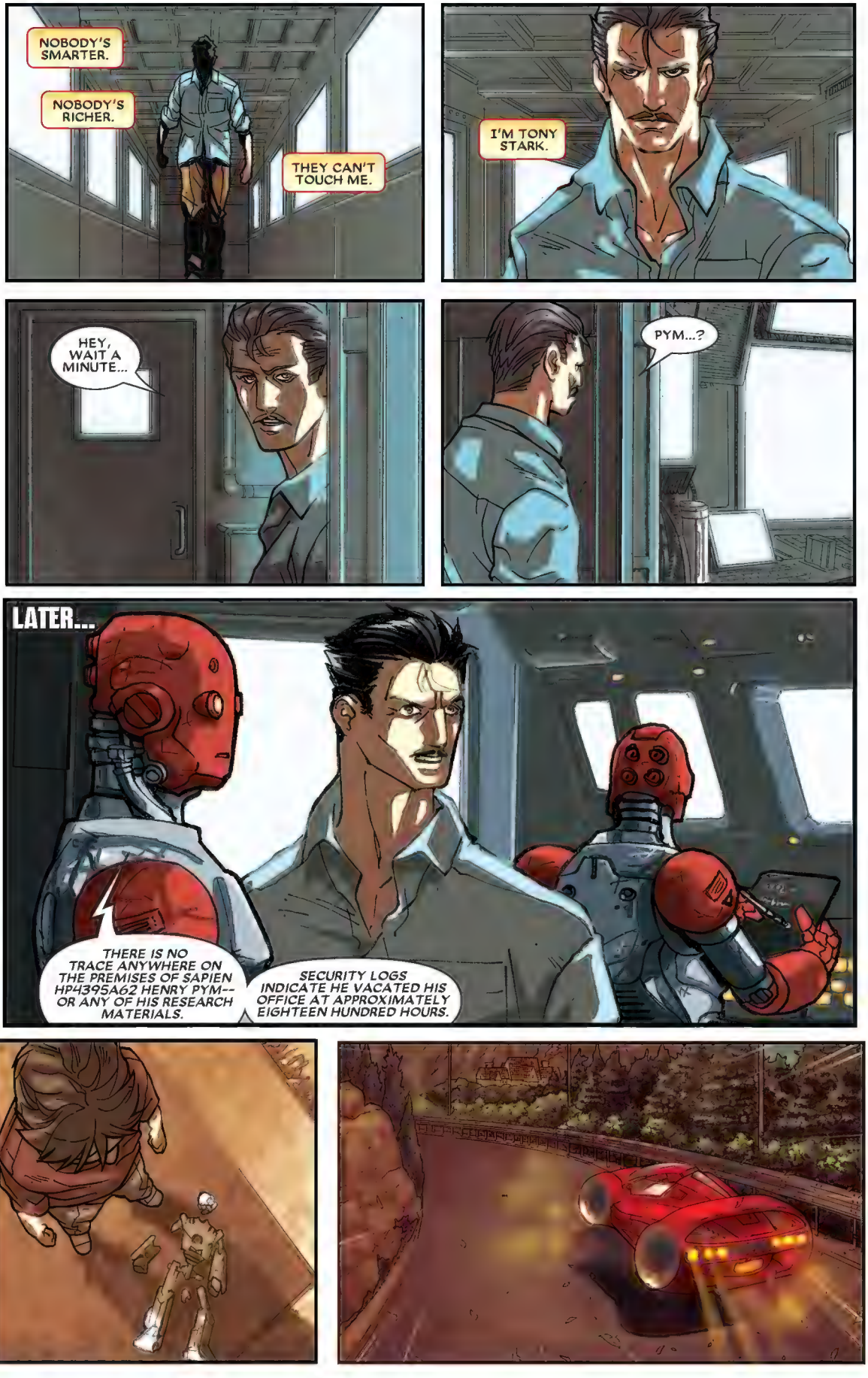
MBC
sapien
death
match

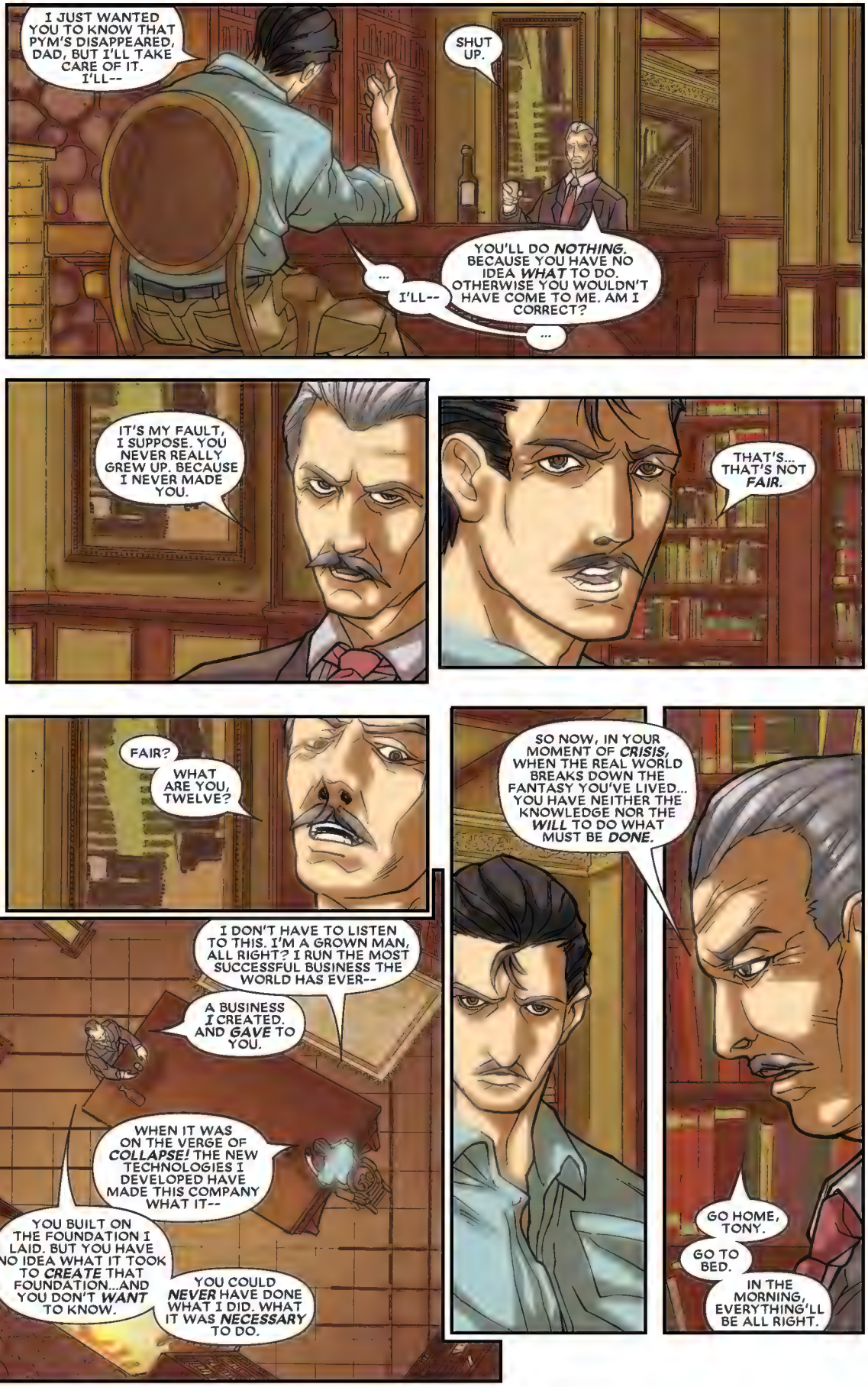

DO YOU HAVE *ANY* IDEA HOW MUCH THIS TOY YOU BROKE COST TO *DEVELOP*, TONY?
DAD, I-I-

WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT.

DAMMIT.

SUB-BASEMENT TWELVE. RESTRICTED ACCESS.
T-S FIVE FOUR-NINE-SEVEN.
WELCOME, MR. STARK.
WAIT'LL YOU SEE THIS, OLD MAN...


NOBODY'S SMARTER.
NOBODY'S RICHER.
THEY CAN'T TOUCH ME.
I'M TONY STARK.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE...
PYM...?
LATER...
THERE IS NO TRACE ANYWHERE ON THE PREMISES OF SAPIEN HP4395A62 HENRY PYM--OR ANY OF HIS RESEARCH MATERIALS.
SECURITY LOGS INDICATE HE VACATED HIS OFFICE AT APPROXIMATELY EIGHTEEN HUNDRED HOURS.

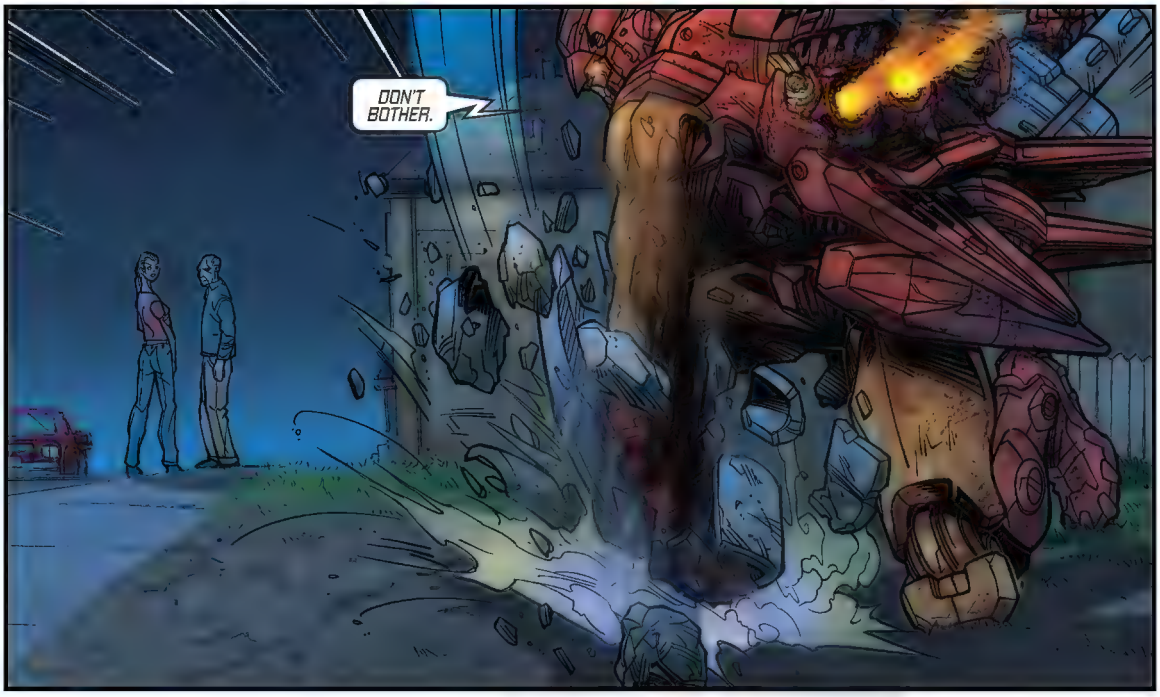

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT PYM'S DISAPPEARED, DAD, BUT I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT. I'LL--
SHUT UP.
YOU'LL DO *NOTHING*, BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO IDEA *WHAT* TO DO. OTHERWISE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO ME. AM I CORRECT?
...
I'LL--
...
IT'S MY FAULT, I SUPPOSE. YOU NEVER REALLY GREW UP. BECAUSE I NEVER MADE YOU.
THAT'S... THAT'S NOT *FAIR*.
FAIR?
WHAT ARE YOU, TWELVE?
I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS. I'M A GROWN MAN, ALL RIGHT? I RUN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS THE WORLD HAS EVER--
A BUSINESS *I* CREATED. AND *GAVE* TO YOU.
WHEN IT WAS ON THE VERGE OF *COLLAPSE!* THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES I DEVELOPED HAVE MADE THIS COMPANY WHAT IT--
YOU BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION I LAID. BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT TOOK TO *CREATE* THAT FOUNDATION...AND YOU DON'T *WANT* TO KNOW.
YOU COULD *NEVER* HAVE DONE WHAT I DID. WHAT IT WAS *NECESSARY* TO DO.
SO NOW, IN YOUR MOMENT OF *CRISIS*, WHEN THE REAL WORLD BREAKS DOWN THE FANTASY YOU'VE LIVED... YOU HAVE NEITHER THE KNOWLEDGE NOR THE *WILL* TO DO WHAT MUST BE *DONE*.
GO HOME, TONY.
GO TO BED.
IN THE MORNING, EVERYTHING'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

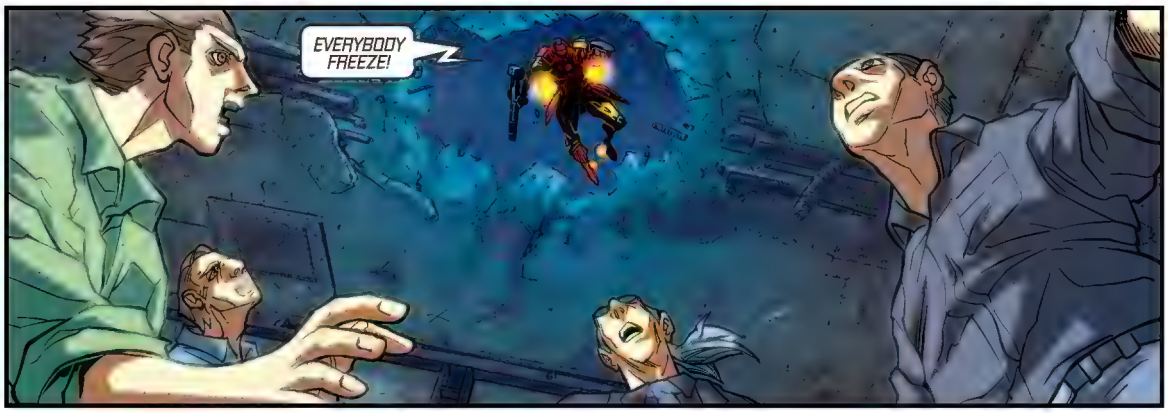
WHERE TO, SIR?
SIR?

TESTING. PAGING SYNTHTEL. ARE WE ONLINE?
YES, SIR.
ACTIVATE SCRAMBLE AND DEEP FORMAT AUTODELETE. THIS CONVERSATION ISN'T HAPPENING.
VERY GOOD, SIR.
INITIATE ENCRYPTION. TAP THE SYSTEM. GET A READ ON PYM'S IDENT CARD. MAKE ME A MAP SHOWING HIS MOVEMENTS OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS.
SIR, THAT WOULD BE ILLEGAL.
YOU'RE A COMPUTER PROGRAM, JARVIS, NOT A LAWYER.
DO IT.
VERY GOOD, SIR.

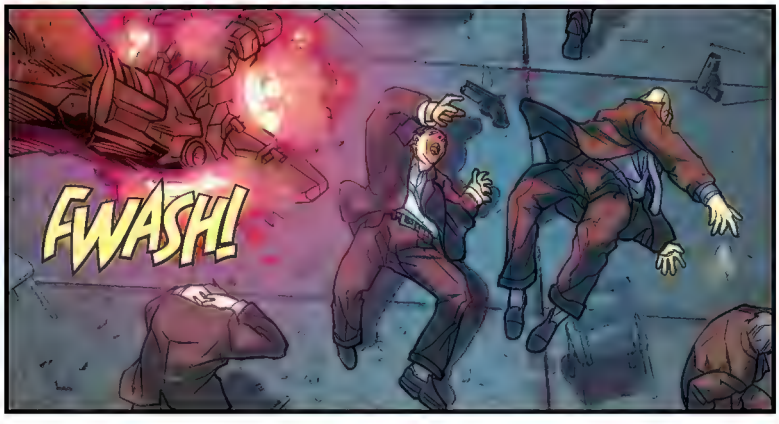
WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?
SWITCH TO ORGANIC INFRARED.

THE UNDERGROUND BUNKER IS EQUIPPED WITH A SCRAMBLER. DECRYPTING NOW. SO FAR, IDENT CARD DATA IDENTIFIES SIX KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE SAPIEN RESISTANCE.
BINGO.
NOW RUNNING NUMBERS ON TRACE THERMAL READINGS.
I SHOULD HAVE A PROBABLE ENTRANCE LOCATION FOR YOU IN ABOUT--


DON'T BOTHER.


EVERYBODY FREEZE!

IS PYM HERE?
UNCERTAIN. SCANNING INCOMPL--
GUNS ON SUBJECTS ONE, FIVE, SEVEN!
GOT IT.


FWASH!

WHOA--!

I SAID FREEZE.
CAN'T... SEE...
AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FOR ANOTHER TEN MINUTES.
WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M LOOKING FOR--

UFF!
YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN AN UNLAWFUL CRIMINAL GATHERING. ANY ATTEMPT TO FLEE OR RESIST WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE TERMINATION.
DEAR LORD. NOT AGAIN...

DON'T WORRY, GRANDPA. IT'S NOT LIKE THE OLD DAYS. THEY WON'T --
AAAAIIEEE!!!
RUN!
RUN!
RUN?

NO!
174 TRE
CRUNCH
IT'S COMING BACK AROUND!
MOVE, TONY!
DON'T WORRY-- I'VE DODGED THESE THINGS--

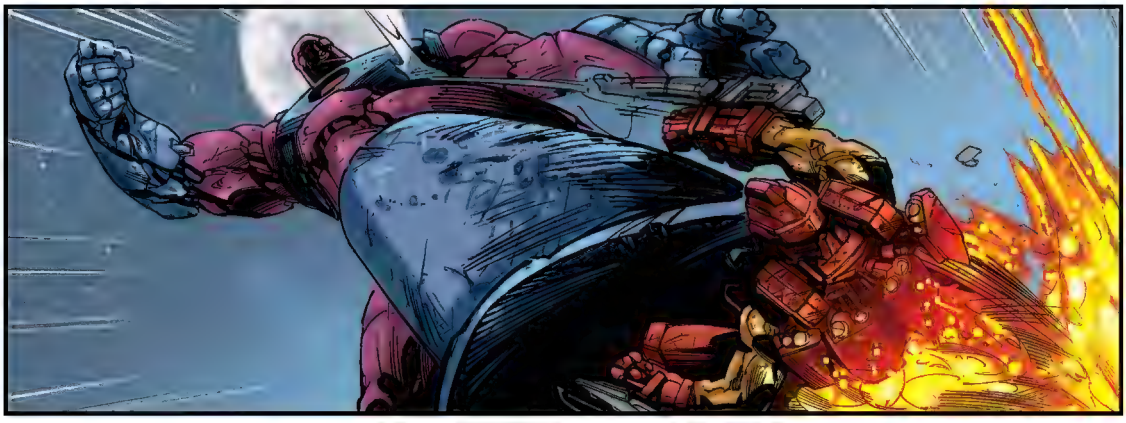
CRUNCH!
YOU WERE SAYING?
REAL SENTINELS... MUCH... QUICKER...
IT'S OVER, TONY.
D--

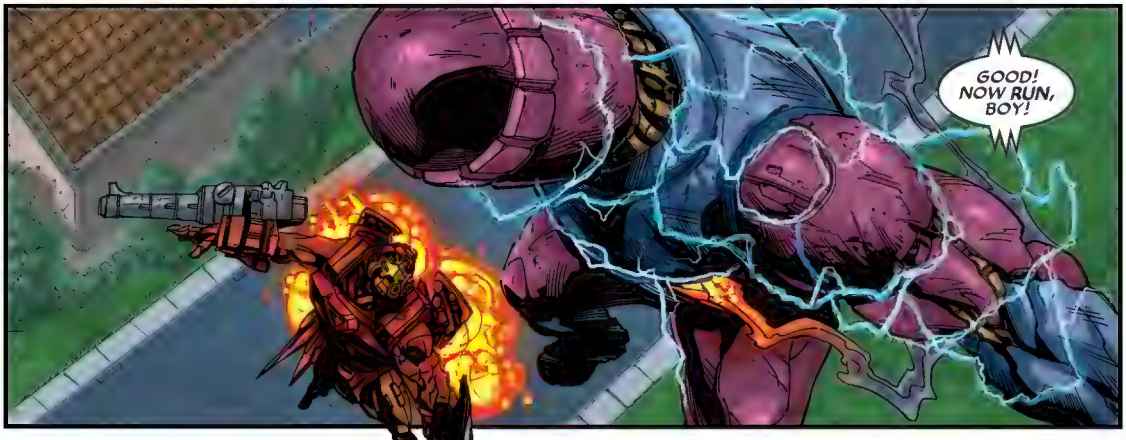
DAD?

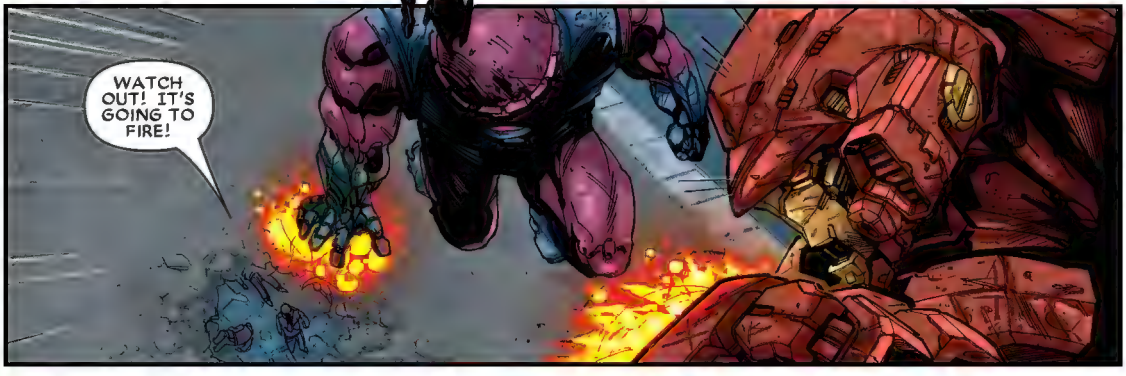
WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT.

IRON MAN: HOUSE OF M #2

CAN YOU HEAR ME, TONY?
DAD...
ARE YOU... INSIDE OF THAT THING? INSIDE A SENTINEL? HELPING THEM KILL--
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE THE ONLY STARK STUPID ENOUGH TO RUN AROUND IN A ROBOT SUIT OUTSIDE OF A SPORTS ARENA. I'VE TAPPED INTO THIS SENTINEL'S CONTROLS REMOTELY.
WHAT--
SHUT UP, LISTEN, AND DO EXACTLY WHAT I SAY. THERE'S A MISSING PIECE OF SHIELDING ON THIS SENTINEL'S LEFT SIDE. DO YOU SEE THE SPOT?
YES.
WHEN I LIFT ITS FOOT, FIRE AT THAT SPOT. USE AN ELECTRICAL DISRUPTER. THAT SHOULD FRY THE UNIT'S BLACK BOX. I'LL FALL BACK; YOU'LL RUN. ARE YOU SMART ENOUGH TO GET HOME WITHOUT GETTING TRACED OR CAUGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AFTER--
NOW!



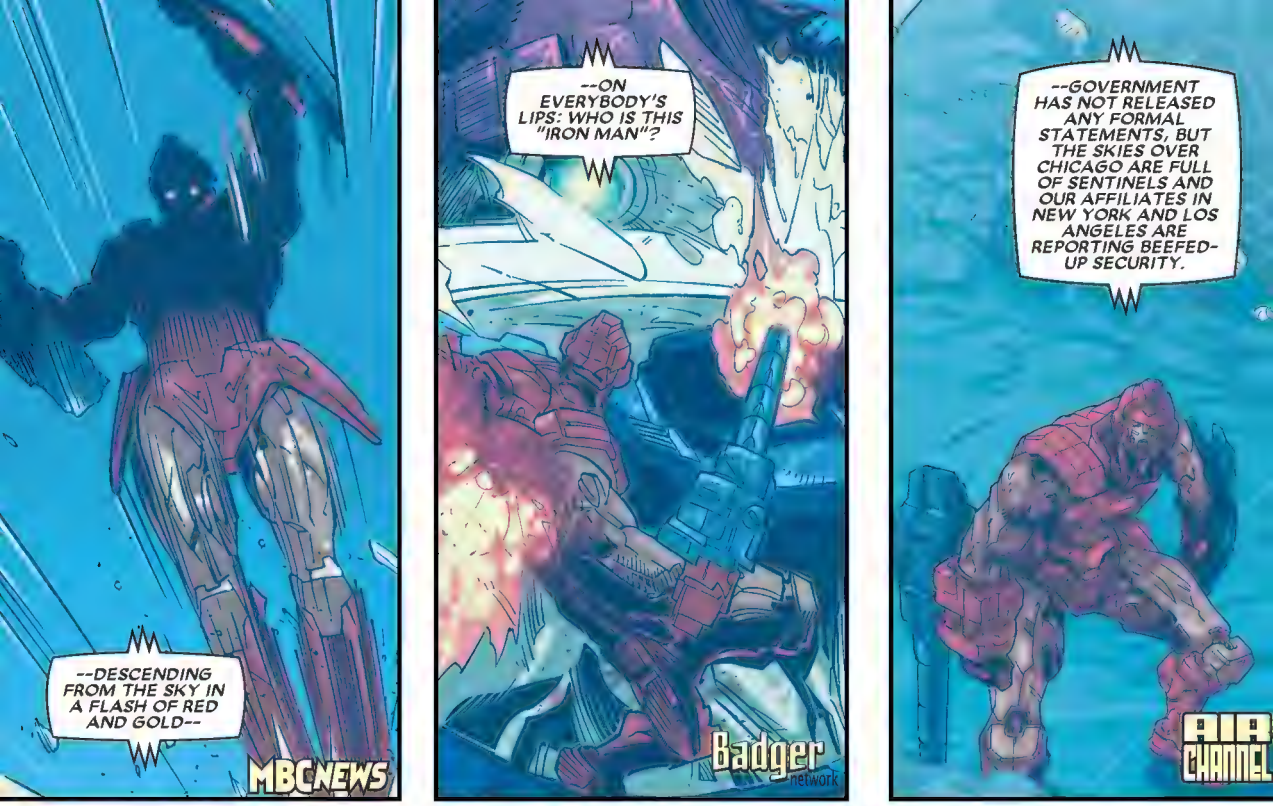

GOOD! NOW RUN, BOY!

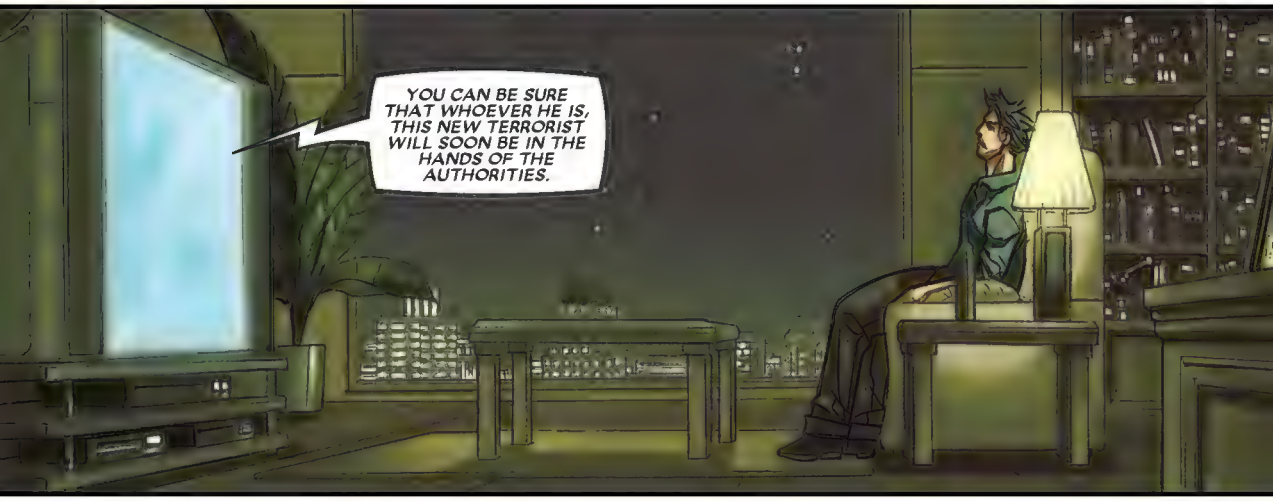

WATCH OUT! IT'S GOING TO FIRE!

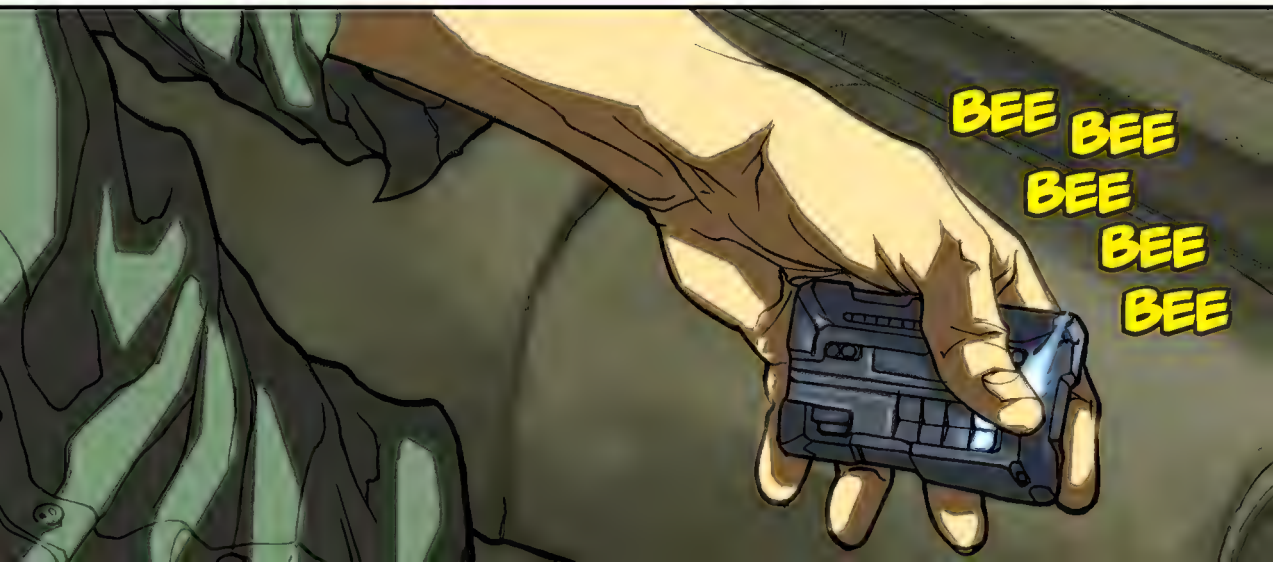
I SAID RUN!
NO, DAD, YOU CAN'T--

TONY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
YOU THINK I'M JUST GOING TO FLY AWAY WHILE YOU KILL THOSE PEOPLE?
YOU'RE INSANE.
AND YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
GOODBYE, TONY.
CLICK
HEY, YOU!

MBC NEWS, HERE. CAN YOU TELL US YOUR NAME? WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR? ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE SAPIEN RESISTANCE?
BADGER NETWORK. ONE QUESTION: JUST WHAT DO YOU PEOPLE HAVE AGAINST MUTANTS?
OH, BOY...
THIS IS THE AIR CHANNEL. TELL US ABOUT THE MAN UNDER THE ARMOR.
HOW TALL ARE YOU, EXACTLY?
BOXERS OR BRIEFS?


--DESCENDING FROM THE SKY IN A FLASH OF RED AND GOLD--
MBC NEWS
--ON EVERYBODY'S LIPS: WHO IS THIS "IRON MAN"?
Badger network
--GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RELEASED ANY FORMAL STATEMENTS, BUT THE SKIES OVER CHICAGO ARE FULL OF SENTINELS AND OUR AFFILIATES IN NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES ARE REPORTING BEEFED-UP SECURITY.
AIR CHANNEL

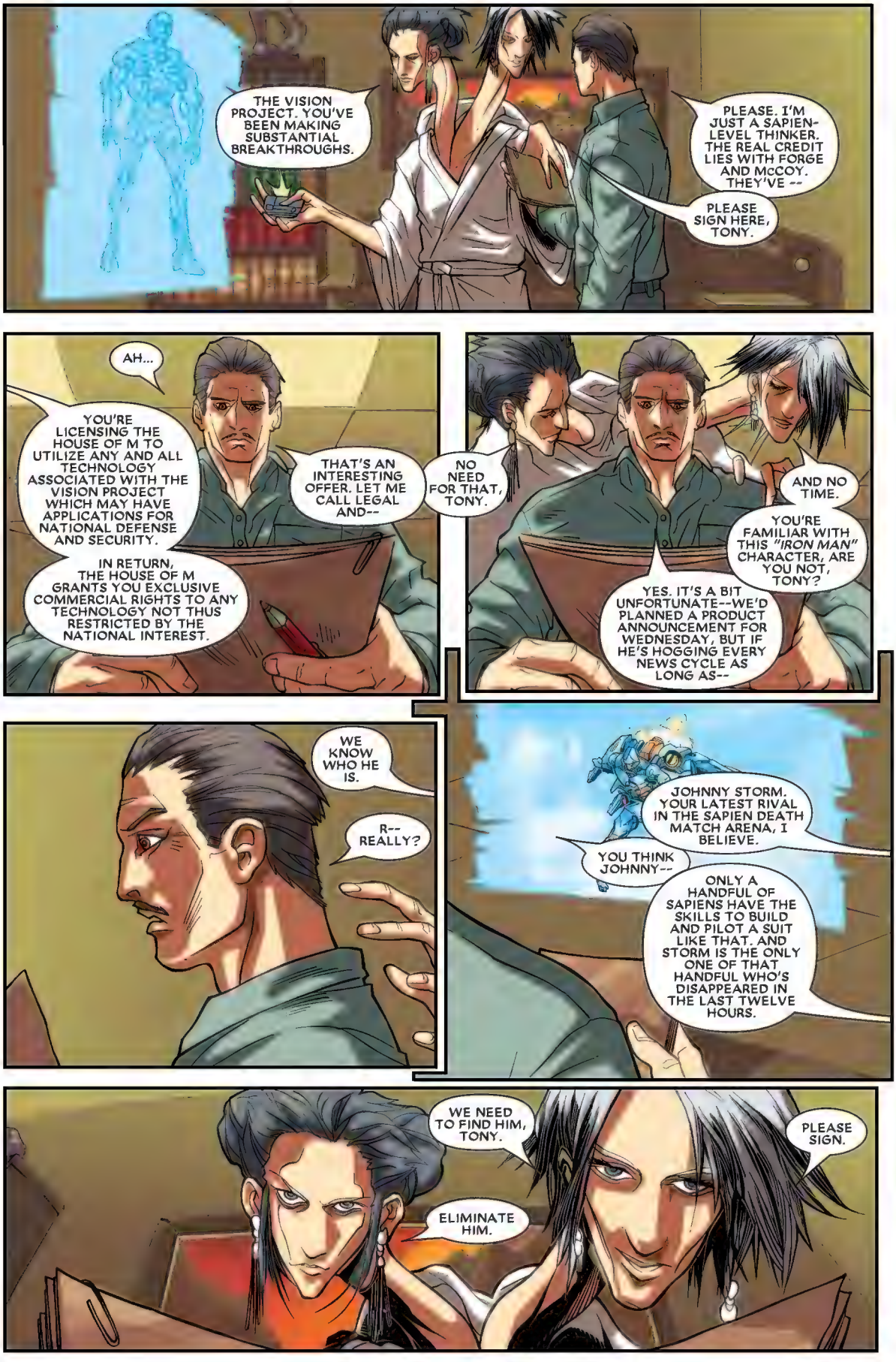

YOU CAN BE SURE THAT WHOEVER HE IS, THIS NEW TERRORIST WILL SOON BE IN THE HANDS OF THE AUTHORITIES.


BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE

MR. STARK, SAPIEN DEATH MATCH WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU'D BE WILLING TO PROVIDE EXPERT COMMENTARY FOR A SPECIAL SHOW ABOUT THIS "IRON MAN" CHARACTER.
TELL THEM I'M BOOKED.
SIR, THE TOY DIVISION HAS A MOCK-UP OF AN IRON MAN ACTION FIGURE FOR YOUR APPROVAL.
WHO THE HELL AUTHORIZED THAT?
UH, NO ONE, SIR. THEY JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A FUN AND PROFITA--
STARK INDUSTRIES IS NOT GOING TO ENDANGER ITS-- WE ARE NOT MANUFACTURING A TOY BASED ON A TERRORIST. LISTEN, HOLD MY CALLS FOR THE NEXT HOUR, ALL RIGHT?
SIR, THERE'S ONE MORE URGENT--
WHAT?
AN ENVOY FROM THE HOUSE OF M HAS JUST ARRIVED...

I'LL... I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN.
CLICK

MY APOLOGIES FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING, MADAME. I --
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, TONY. WE KNOW YOU'RE A BUSY LAD.
TUT TUT. NO HARM DONE.
NO NEED TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR HIM. NO MAN SHOULD KEEP THE HOUSE OF M WAITING.
LET'S BEGIN, SHALL WE?
WE UNDERSTAND YOU'RE DEVELOPING SOME INTERESTING NEW TECHNOLOGY.
ABSOLUTELY. WE'RE ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE OUR Q-SERIES MINI-PAD. WE HAVE PROTOTYPES IF YOU'D LIKE TO --
COME ON, TONY. WE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE HIDING.
YOU DO?


THE VISION PROJECT. YOU'VE BEEN MAKING SUBSTANTIAL BREAKTHROUGHS.
PLEASE. I'M JUST A SAPIEN-LEVEL THINKER. THE REAL CREDIT LIES WITH FORGE AND McCOY. THEY'VE --
PLEASE SIGN HERE, TONY.
AH...
YOU'RE LICENSING THE HOUSE OF M TO UTILIZE ANY AND ALL TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATED WITH THE VISION PROJECT WHICH MAY HAVE APPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY.
IN RETURN, THE HOUSE OF M GRANTS YOU EXCLUSIVE COMMERCIAL RIGHTS TO ANY TECHNOLOGY NOT THUS RESTRICTED BY THE NATIONAL INTEREST.
THAT'S AN INTERESTING OFFER. LET ME CALL LEGAL AND--
NO NEED FOR THAT, TONY.
AND NO TIME.
YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THIS "IRON MAN" CHARACTER, ARE YOU NOT, TONY?
YES. IT'S A BIT UNFORTUNATE--WE'D PLANNED A PRODUCT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR WEDNESDAY, BUT IF HE'S HOGGING EVERY NEWS CYCLE AS LONG AS--
WE KNOW WHO HE IS.
R-- REALLY?
JOHNNY STORM. YOUR LATEST RIVAL IN THE SAPIEN DEATH MATCH ARENA, I BELIEVE.
YOU THINK JOHNNY--
ONLY A HANDFUL OF SAPIENS HAVE THE SKILLS TO BUILD AND PILOT A SUIT LIKE THAT. AND STORM IS THE ONLY ONE OF THAT HANDFUL WHO'S DISAPPEARED IN THE LAST TWELVE HOURS.
WE NEED TO FIND HIM, TONY.
ELIMINATE HIM.
PLEASE SIGN.

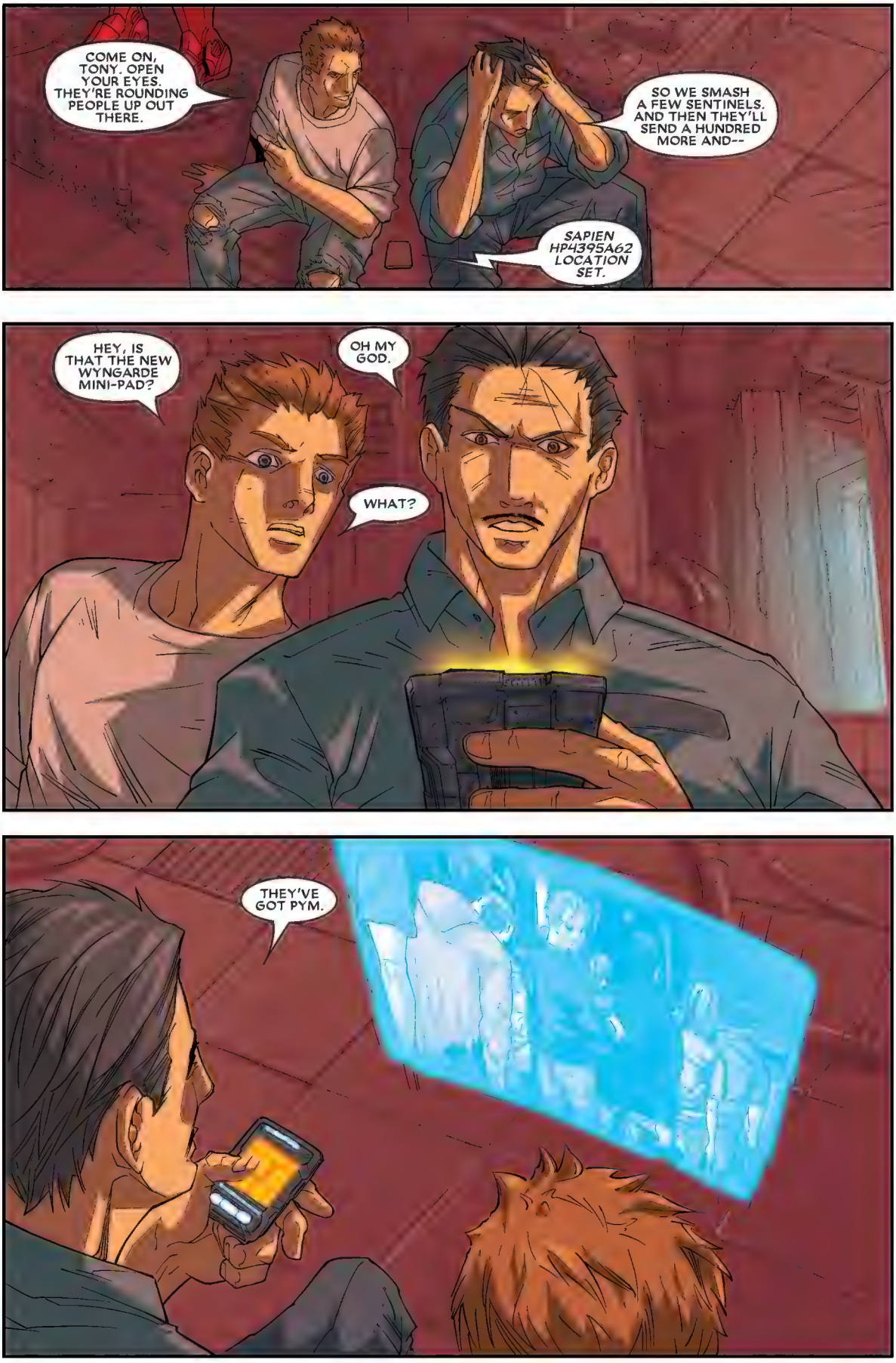
THEY DON'T SUSPECT A THING. YOU'VE MADE SOME REAL ADVANCES ON THAT PSIONIC INHIBITOR, HAVEN'T YOU? DO YOU CARRY IT? OR IS IT EMBEDDED IN THE ROOM?
MURDERER.
GROW UP, TONY.
YOU STOOD BY WHILE THOSE SENTINELS FRIED A DOZEN PEOPLE. AND THEN YOU TRIED TO *FINISH* THE JOB.
AND YOU'VE JUST SIGNED A DOCUMENT WHICH COULD RESULT IN THE DEATHS OF MILLIONS.
I...
WHY DO YOU DO THE THINGS YOU DO, TONY? WHAT GUIDES YOUR DECISIONS?
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF QUESTION--
INDULGE ME.

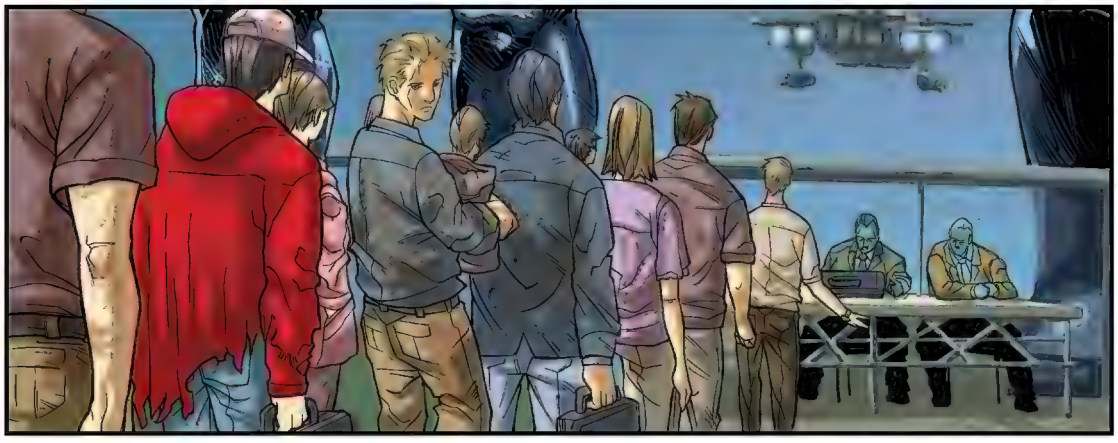
I'M JUST... TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING.
FOR WHOM?
WHO ARE YOU TO LECTURE ME ON ETHICS? YOU'RE THE ONE DRIVING A SENTINEL.
WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT MY ACTIONS? THE QUESTION IS WHAT YOU'RE DOING, AND WHY.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE A POINT. WHY DON'T YOU JUST MAKE IT?
I WASN'T GOING TO KILL THOSE PEOPLE, TONY. I WAS GOING TO PUT OUT THE FIRE THAT WAS ABOUT TO KILL THEM.
BUT YOU. YOU SIGNED THOSE PAPERS WITHOUT BLINKING.
WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE? SAID NO? SO THEY COULD TAKE THIS PLACE OVER? THEN THERE'D BE NO CHANCE OF-- OF FINDING A WAY TO WORK AROUND THEM, TO CONTROL WHAT INFORMATION THEY GET, TO--
YOU WEREN'T THINKING ABOUT THAT WHEN YOU SIGNED. YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO GET RID OF THAT KNOT OF FEAR IN YOUR GUT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, TONY. YOU'RE PLAYING YOUR ROLE, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO. AND DON'T WORRY-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR ANY LONGER. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO NOW IS GO DOWN TO THE BASEMENT...
...AND DESTROY THAT SUIT.

--BREAKING NEWS FROM SOLDIER FIELD, WHERE SENTINELS ARE CONSTRUCTING MAKESHIFT BARRACKS FOR HUNDREDS OF RECENTLY CAPTURED SAPIEN REBELS.
MBCNEWS
AUTHORIZED BY THE SAPIEN PROTECTION ACT, SUSPECTED SAPIEN REBELS CAN BE HELD IN "SAFE ZONES" FOR UP TO THREE MONTHS WHILE THEIR CASES ARE REVIEWED.
MBCNEWS
"SAFE ZONES"...
BACK IN THE DAY WE USED TO CALL 'EM RESERVATIONS.
OH, THIS IS VERY CLEVER...
WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A MACHINE THAT CAN DO TAXES.
YES, YES...
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT.
THIS IS... THIS IS GETTING UGLY.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US? WE WERE JUST WALKING OUR DOG! WE WERE JUST--
HUSH, ALDIE. NO ONE'S LISTENING.
NO ONE CARES.
OKAY, DUDE, YOU GOT ME! I SURRENDER!

WHA--
JOHNNY STORM--
NEVER PLAY CHICKEN WITH A PARTICLE CANNON, THAT'S MY MOTTO.
DUDE, I GOT INSIDE, BUT I COULDN'T GET ONLINE. WHAT'S THE KEY? PASSWORD? RETINA? GENETIC SIGNATURE?
YOU--
TONY ROCKSTAR STARK!
I LOVE YOU, MAN!
UH--
YOU DID IT!
I SAW THOSE NEWS REPORTS AND I WAS LIKE, THAT'S NOT ME UP THERE. SO IT HAD TO BE YOU. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW, NOT FOR SURE. SO I HAD TO SNEAK IN HERE'N FIND OUT. AND MAN. MAN, OH, MAN. YOU. YOU CRAZY--
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, CALM DOWN.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING. WE'LL GET YOU NEW IDENT CARDS AND SLIP YOU OUT WITH THE NIGHT SHIFT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
DON'T WORRY, JOHNNY. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO CATCH YOU. YOU'RE GOING TO ESCAPE.
FORGET IT. I'M NOT RUNNING.
WHA--
WHY DO YOU THINK I CAME HERE?
I WANT IN.
I WANT TO FIGHT.


COME ON, TONY. OPEN YOUR EYES. THEY'RE ROUNDING PEOPLE UP OUT THERE.
SO WE SMASH A FEW SENTINELS. AND THEN THEY'LL SEND A HUNDRED MORE AND--
SAPIEN HP4395A62 LOCATION SET.
HEY, IS THAT THE NEW WYNGARDE MINI-PAD?
OH MY GOD.
WHAT?
THEY'VE GOT PYM.



OPEN THE BAG, SAPE.
YES, YES...
WHAT'S HE LOOKING AT?

JUST THE SUN.
YEAH, I GUESS--

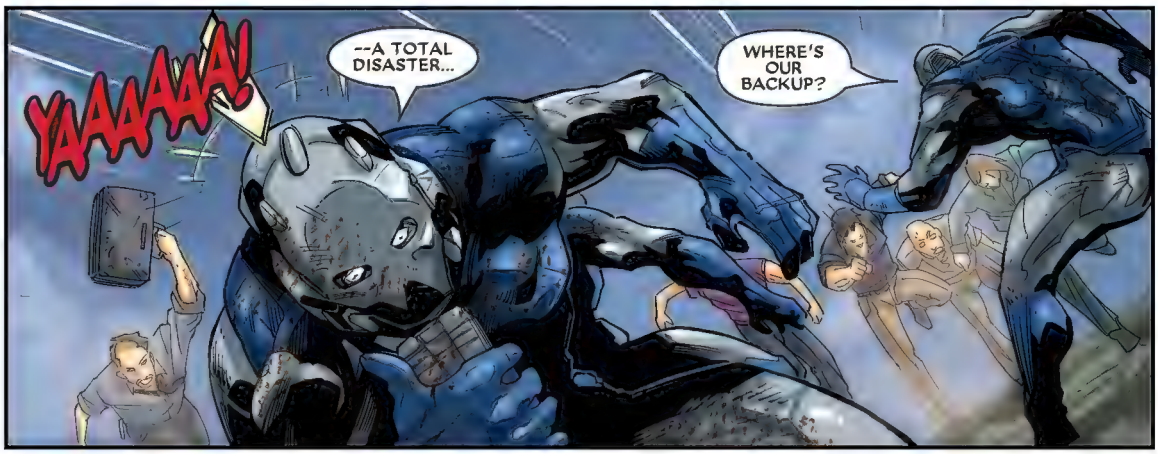
OH, MAN...

IRON MAN! IT'S IRON MAN!
C'MON, SPORTS FANS, CHECK YOUR PROGRAM. IT'S JOHNNY STORM!
JOHNNY WHO?
RUN, YOU IDIOT!
THIS ISN'T THE PLAN. THIS ISN'T--

DIDJA SEE--
WOO HOOO!
IRON MAN!
AND JOHNNY WHAT'S-HIS-NAME!

OKAY. OKAY. EVERYBODY... EVERYBODY BACK IN LINE!

DON'T GET ANY BRIGHT IDEAS, NOW. I DON'T SEE YOU GUYS WEARING ANY SUPER ARMOR. THIS IS--


YAAAAAA!
--A TOTAL DISASTER...
WHERE'S OUR BACKUP?

PURSUING TARGET ONE.
MUTANT GUARDS. THEY'RE ON US, TONY.
IT'S ME THEY WANT.
TAKE PYM.
TONY, WAIT!
DO IT!

WHA--
GIVE US PYM AND YOU'RE FREE TO GO. YOU HAVE THREE SECONDS TO COMPLY.
ONE.
TWO.
CHU!
THR--

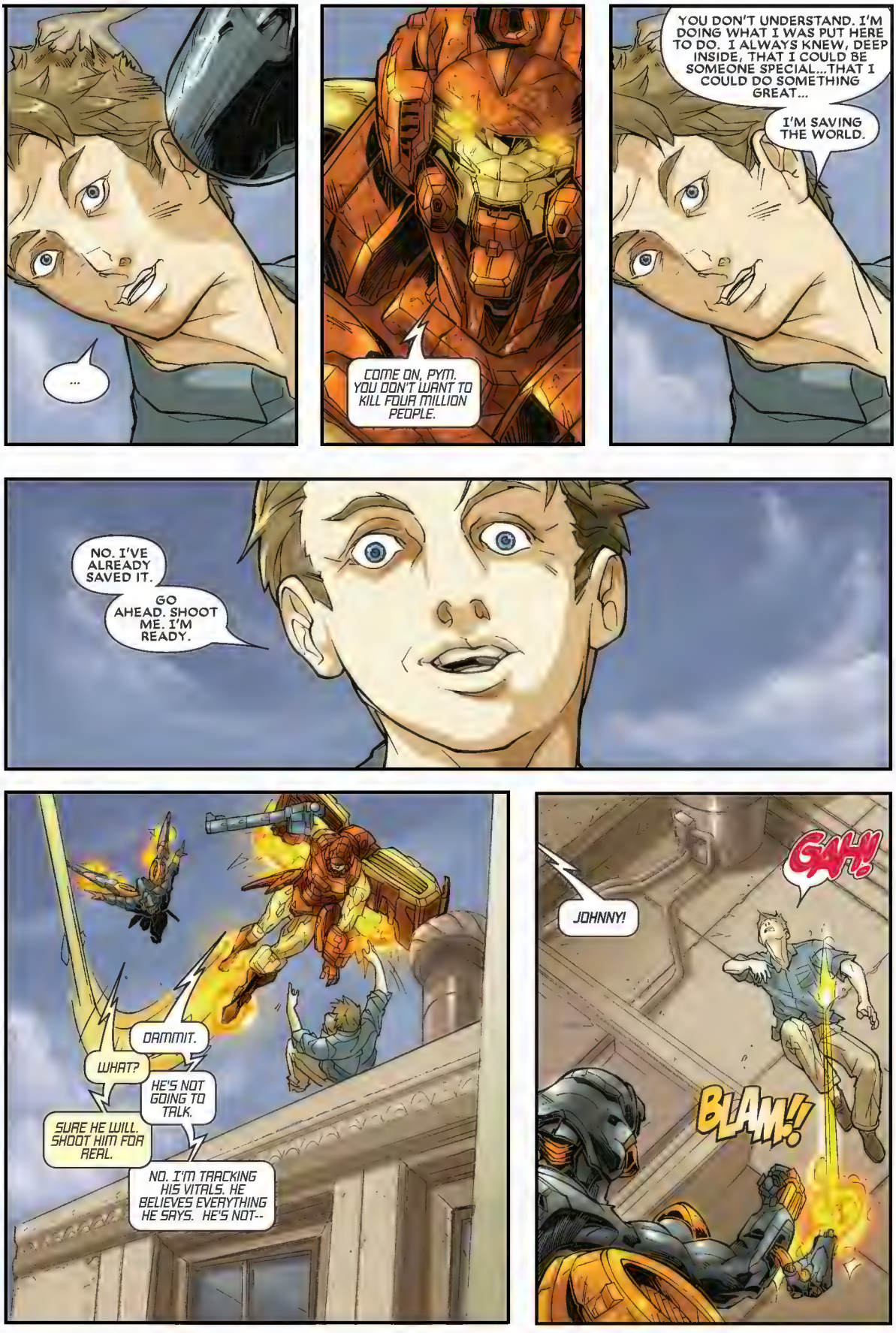
FWOOSH!
MY GOD...
AAAAGH!
AAAAGH!
IT WORKS!

WHAT WORKS?
THE GENE BOMB. KEYS IN ON ORGANIC FORMS CARRYING THE MUTANT GENOME. TRIGGERS GENETIC MELTDOWN.
YOU JUST KILLED THOSE PEOPLE.
NO. NOT PEOPLE. MUTANTS.
YOU LITTLE MONSTER. YOU--
WAIT.
HOW MANY MORE OF THESE DID YOU MAKE, PYM?
OH. LOTS.
AND WHERE ARE THEY?

EVERYWHERE.

IRON MAN: HOUSE OF M #3

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, EVERYWHERE?
OH, NOT *LITERALLY* EVERYWHERE. I MEAN, THERE'D BE NO POINT IN PUTTING A MUTANT-KILLING BOMB IN A MUTANT-FREE COW PASTURE, FOR EXAMPLE.
WE CONCENTRATED ON THE DOWNTOWN AREA. MAPPED THE AREAS OF HIGHEST MUTANT TRAFFIC. THE PROGRAM PREDICTS 47 PERCENT ELIMINATION WITHIN THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES. OVER THE NEXT HOUR, AS AIR CIRCULATES AND PEOPLE ENTER AND EXIT BUILDINGS, WE GET TO 79 PERCENT. WITHIN 24 HOURS--
WHEN DO THE BOMBS GO OFF?
OH, I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT.
YES, YOU CAN.

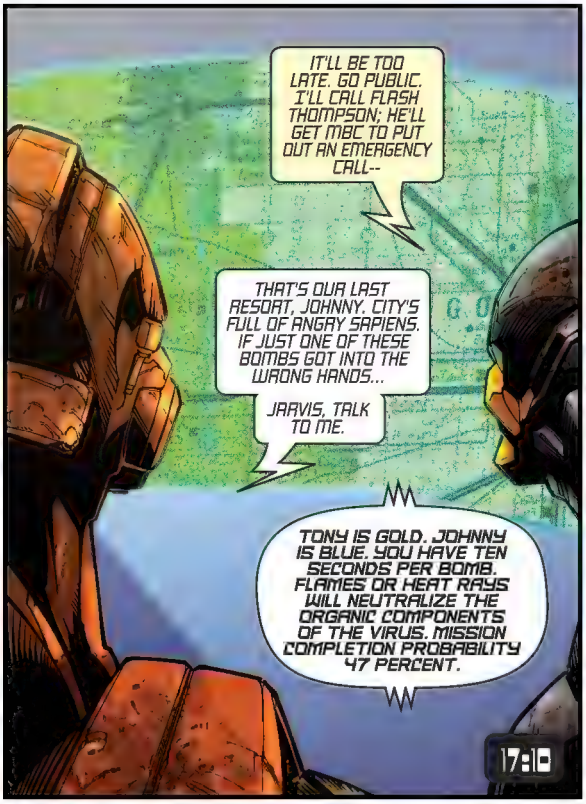

...
COME ON, PYM. YOU DON'T WANT TO KILL FOUR MILLION PEOPLE.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'M DOING WHAT I WAS PUT HERE TO DO. I ALWAYS KNEW, DEEP INSIDE, THAT I COULD BE SOMEONE SPECIAL...THAT I COULD DO SOMETHING GREAT...
I'M SAVING THE WORLD.
NO. I'VE ALREADY SAVED IT.
GO AHEAD. SHOOT ME. I'M READY.
DAMMIT.
WHAT?
HE'S NOT GOING TO TALK.
SURE HE WILL. SHOOT HIM FOR REAL.
NO. I'M TRACKING HIS VITALS. HE BELIEVES EVERYTHING HE SAYS. HE'S NOT--
JOHNNY!
GAH!
BLAM!

JUST A NICK, JOHNNY? COME ON. FINISH IT.
CAN'T YOU JUST STICK SOME KIND OF NIFTY STARK INDUSTRIES BRAIN DATA SUCKER ON HIS HEAD OR SOMETHING?
NOT IN THIS UNIVERSE.
BUT I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA.
STATUS, JARVIS?
DOWNLOAD... COMPLETE.
CONSTITUENT ELEMENT ANALYSIS... COMPLETE.
TRACE ELEMENT SEARCH AND PROBABLE BOMB SITE MATCHING...
... COMPLETE.
HOOO BOY...
WHEN DO THEY GO OFF, JARVIS?
IN 17 MINUTES AND 57 SECONDS.
GET ME A TONY STARK SIM SKIN AND AN UPLINK TO LAB ONE.
17:56

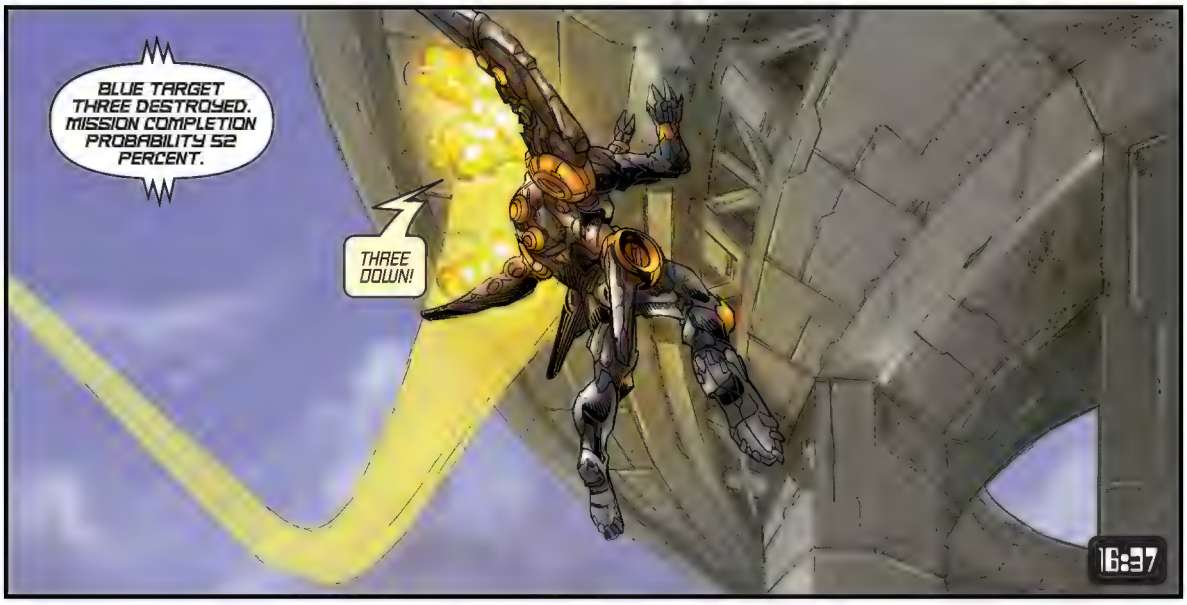
FORGE. McCOY.
I'VE JUST BEEN CONTACTED BY IRON MAN. HE PROVIDED ME WITH DATA WHICH I'M UPLOADING TO YOUR SERVERS. IT DETAILS THE COMPOSITION AND PLACEMENT OF 103 ANTI-MUTANT GENETIC BOMBS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN.
17:54

THAT FILTHY TERRORIST. WHAT ARE HIS DEMANDS?
SOMEONE ELSE PLANTED THE BOMBS, MADAME ENVOY. IRON MAN'S TRYING TO STOP THEM.
TONY, I KNOW THIS IS A STRESSFUL TIME FOR SAPIENS, BUT WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU TRUST--
NO TIME, HANK. CONTACT THE HOUSE OF M, GET BOMB CREWS ON THE STREETS AND EVACUATE EVERY MUTANT FROM DOWNTOWN CHICAGO.
17:31

SIM SKIN UPLINK TERMINATED.
YOU THINK THEY BELIEVED YOU?
FORGE, MAYBE. HANK PROBABLY THINKS IT'S A TERRORIST TRAP. BUT ONCE THEY PROCESS THE DATA--
17:27


IT'LL BE TOO LATE. GO PUBLIC. I'LL CALL FLASH THOMPSON; HE'LL GET MBC TO PUT OUT AN EMERGENCY CALL--
THAT'S OUR LAST RESORT, JOHNNY. CITY'S FULL OF ANGRY SAPIENS. IF JUST ONE OF THESE BOMBS GOT INTO THE WRONG HANDS...
JARVIS, TALK TO ME.
TONY IS GOLD. JOHNNY IS BLUE. YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS PER BOMB. FLAMES OR HEAT RAYS WILL NEUTRALIZE THE ORGANIC COMPONENTS OF THE VIRUS. MISSION COMPLETION PROBABILITY 47 PERCENT.
17:10

YOU KNOW, I SIGNED UP TO FIGHT MUTANTS, NOT SAVE 'EM.
WELL, IF WE DON'T SAVE 'EM, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY TO FIGHT, WILL YOU?
HEH.
16:57


BLUE TARGET THREE DESTROYED. MISSION COMPLETION PROBABILITY 52 PERCENT.
THREE DOWN!
16:37

GOLD TARGET FIVE DESTROYED. MCP 56 PERCENT.
I'M TWO UP ON YOU.
16:01

BLUE TARGET SEVEN DESTROYED. MCP 59 PERCENT.
LUCKY SEVEN! BEAT THAT, PLAYBOY!
15:35

OKAY.
GOLD TARGET ELEVEN DESTROYED. MCP 68 PERCENT.
SWEET. WE'RE DOING ALL RIGHT, HUH?
15:25

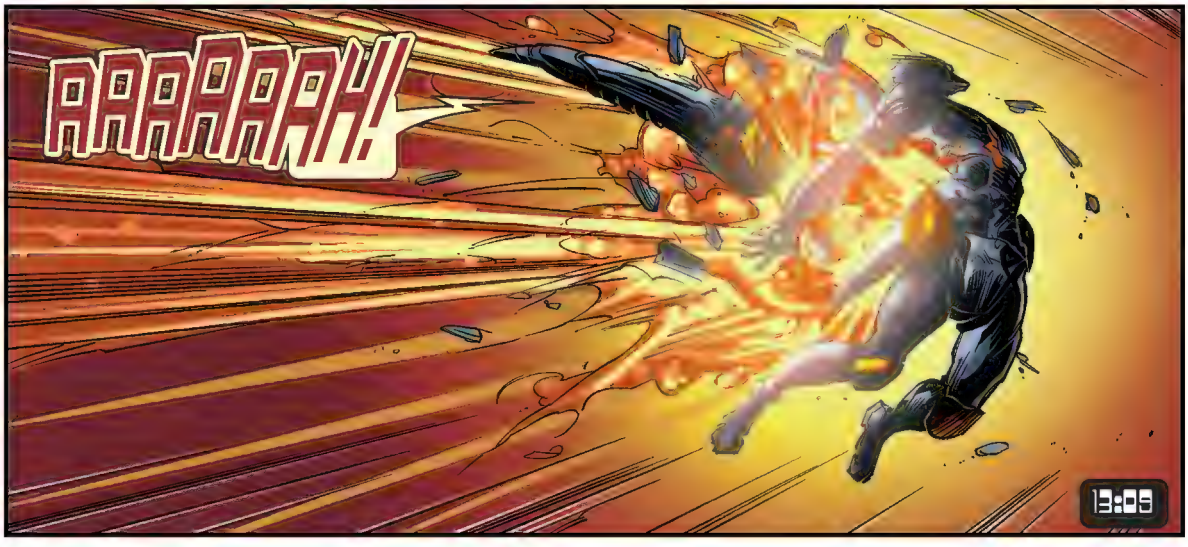
MIGHT EVEN HAVE TIME TO GET PYM TO A HOSPITAL BEFORE--
HOLD ON, JOHNNY...
BLUE TARGET THIRTEEN DESTROYED. MCP --
14:01

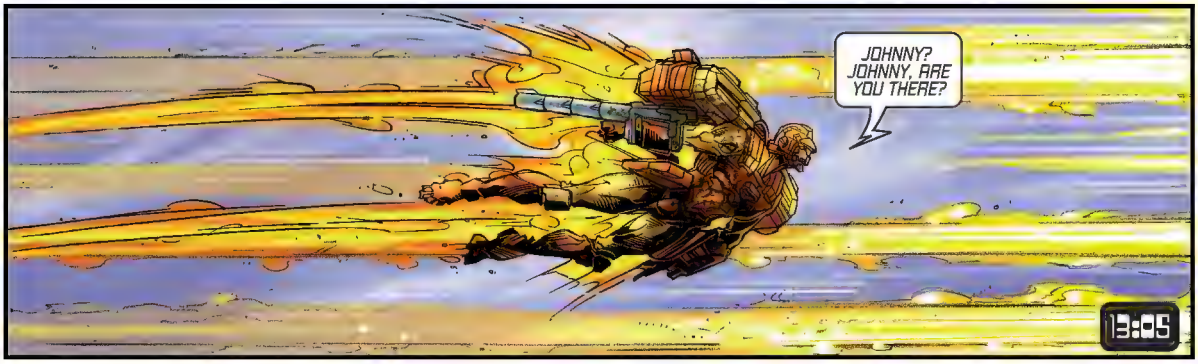
--TWELVE PERCENT.
PYM CAN WAIT.
CAFE
RR'S RESTURAUN
13:58

FORGE, THIS IS TONY STARK. WHEN THE HELL DID YOU START MASS-PRODUCING KILLER VISION ROBOTS?
AH, YOU'RE WATCHING THE NEWS... WE WERE PLANNING TO SURPRISE YOU...
COLOR ME SURPRISED.
HANG ON, I THINK WE MAY HAVE SOME GOOD...
13:48

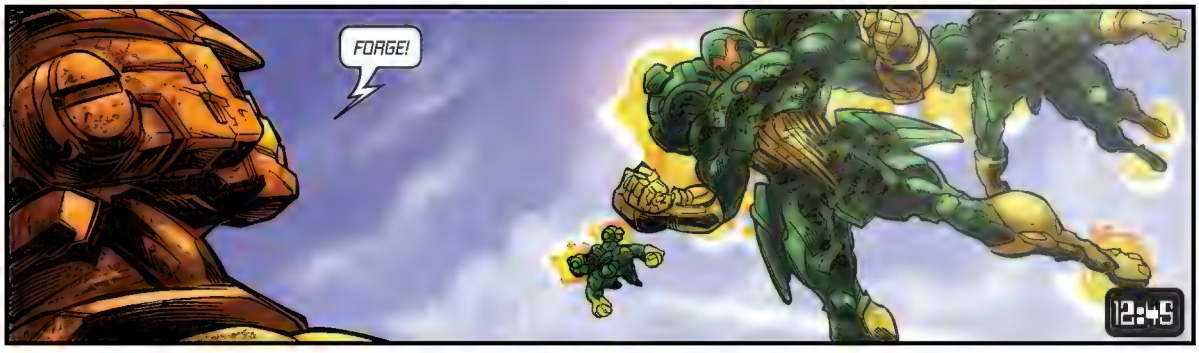
YES! THE HOUSE OF M HAS JUST CONFIRMED THE DATA. THEY'RE REDIRECTING THE VISION SENTINELS TO HELP IRON MAN DISABLE THE BOMBS.
13:42

I DON'T THINK THEY'VE GOTTEN THE MESSAGE!
UH, TONY, YOU READ ME?
COPY THAT, JOHNNY.
THINGS ARE GETTING A LITTLE--
13:37


AAAAAAH!
13:09


JOHNNY? JOHNNY, ARE YOU THERE?
13:05

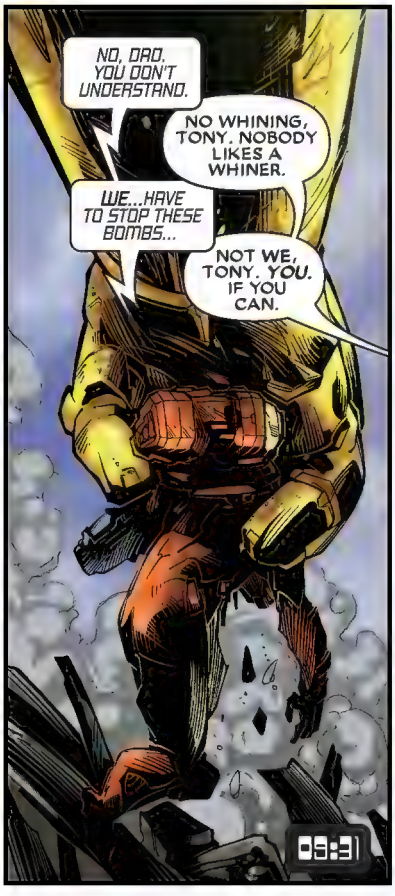
WHAT'S GOING ON? THEY SAID THEY WERE CALLING THE ROBOTS OFF!
12:57


FORGE!
12:45

THEY'RE TRYING.
THEY... CAN'T.
12:38

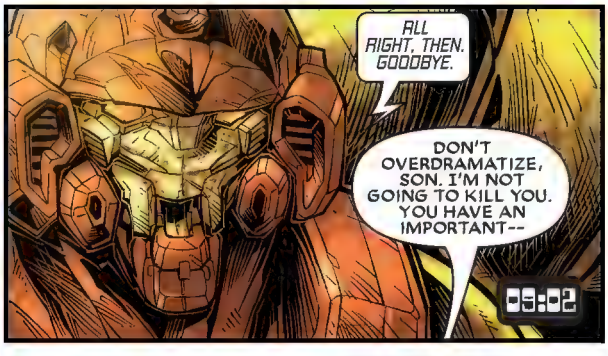
FWOOOSH!
12:36

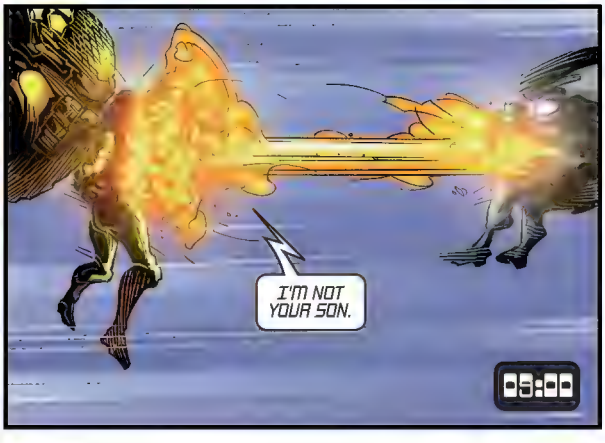
TONY. THIS IS FORGE. ARE YOU THERE? DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO IRON MAN?
Y-YES...
03:55
WE'RE REVIEWING THE VISION CODE. TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
03:52
WE FOUND A SERIES OF SLEEPER COMMANDS. HIDDEN IN A SIMPLE RELAY ROUTINE. PART OF THE CORE CODE.
03:45
HOWARD'S CODE.
HELLO, SON.
03:37


NO, DAD. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
NO WHINING, TONY. NOBODY LIKES A WHINER.
WE...HAVE TO STOP THESE BOMBS...
NOT WE, TONY. YOU. IF YOU CAN.
05:31

REMEMBER THIS, TONY: I GAVE YOU AN OUT. YOU COULD HAVE DESTROYED THE ARMOR. BUT NO. YOU WANTED TO BE A HERO.
YOU CHOSE THIS PATH.
05:17

YOU SET THIS WHOLE THING UP. THE BOMBS... YOU AND PYM...
AND YOU, TONY. COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU. YOU PLAYED IT SO BEAUTIFULLY. SO CALLOW, SO EAGER TO PLEASE. DANCING FOR YOUR MUTANT MASTERS, KEEPING THEM DISTRACTED.
YOU REALLY ARE A MONSTER, AREN'T YOU?
NO. JUST A DIFFERENT BREED.
05:09


ALL RIGHT, THEN. GOODBYE.
DON'T OVERDRAMATIZE, SON. I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU. YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT--
05:02


I'M NOT YOUR SON.
05:00

YES, TONY.
08:58
YES, YOU ARE.
08:57
08:56
IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING I DID TO YOU.
LOOK AT YOU.
08:54
YOU'RE STILL A STARK.
08:51

BEEP
BEEP
BEE--
FLASH THOMPSON HERE.
07:37

I'M ON IT.
07:35

SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
07:21

ALREADY ON OUR WAY.
SWEET.
07:12

COOL. CAN I BRING MY COUSIN?
06:56

TONY, IT'S FLASH. LISTEN, NO TIME TO EXPLAIN--IRON MAN NEEDS HELP. ARE YOU IN?
I'M A LITTLE TIED UP RIGHT--
TONY?
05:11

--NGH...

HANG ON, BIG GUY...

05:01

...I BROUGHT SOME FRIENDS.

GOOD CALL.

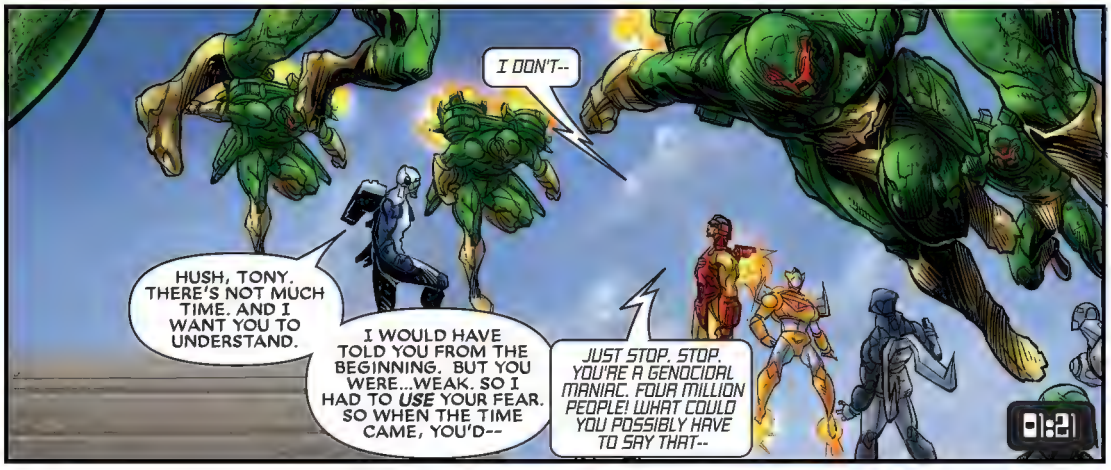
THIS IS FLASH THOMPSON, REPORTING LIVE FROM THE STREETS OF CHICAGO WHERE THE MYSTERIOUS SAPIEN REVOLUTIONARY IRON MAN HAS BEEN JOINED BY JOHNNY STORM AND A REGULAR WHO'S WHO OF CHICAGO'S FINEST ARENA FIGHTERS IN A **REAL LIVE SAPIEN DEATH MATCH!**

IRON MAN, CAN YOU HEAR US? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SAY?

04:47

THERE ARE 73 GENETIC BOMBS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. IF THEY GO OFF, MILLIONS OF MUTANTS WILL DIE. I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE SAPIEN OR MUTANT. WE'RE UPLOADING MAPS TO YOUR VID SYSTEM'S HARD DRIVES RIGHT NOW. IF THERE'S A BOMB NEAR YOU, PLEASE--FIND IT AND TORCH IT.
04:41
WE'VE GOT ONE!
RIGHT HERE, CHIEF!
03:55
THERE IT IS!
GOOD EYE!
03:16
THANKS, IRON MAN!
02:37
WHAT DO WE HAVE, JARVIS?
THIRTEEN LEFT. IN A CLUSTER.
WHERE?
01:57

WHAT'S THE CALL, BOSS?
WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL.
JARVIS. ENCRYPTED PRIVATE LINE. HOWARD ONLY.
DONE.
DAD. THE TOWER'S BEEN EVACUATED. THERE AREN'T ANY MUTANTS WITHIN RANGE.
IT'S OVER.
01:34
YES.
WHA...
HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING TO THE NEWS? YOU DID IT. YOU'RE A HERO.
01:31
I'M TRANSFERRING CONTROL OF THE VISION SENTINELS TO YOU. ARE YOU IN RECEIPT, JARVIS?
AFFIRMATIVE.
SAVIOR OF THE SAPIENS AND DELIVERER OF MUTANTKIND.
PERFECT.
01:25

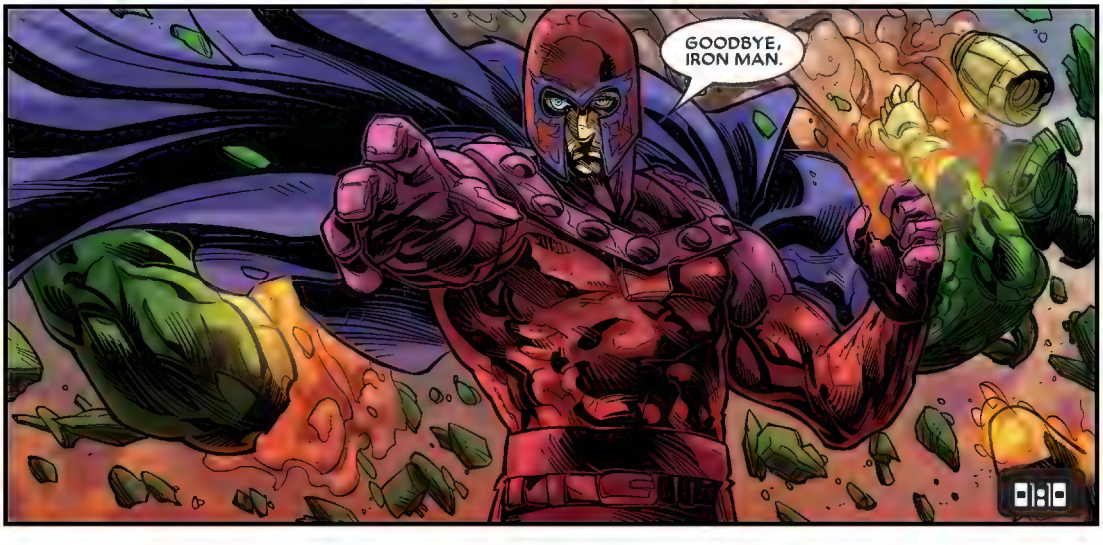

I DON'T--
HUSH, TONY. THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME. AND I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND.
I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU FROM THE BEGINNING. BUT YOU WERE...WEAK. SO I HAD TO *USE* YOUR FEAR. SO WHEN THE TIME CAME, YOU'D--
JUST STOP. STOP. YOU'RE A GENOCIDAL MANIAC. FOUR MILLION PEOPLE! WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE TO SAY THAT--
01:21

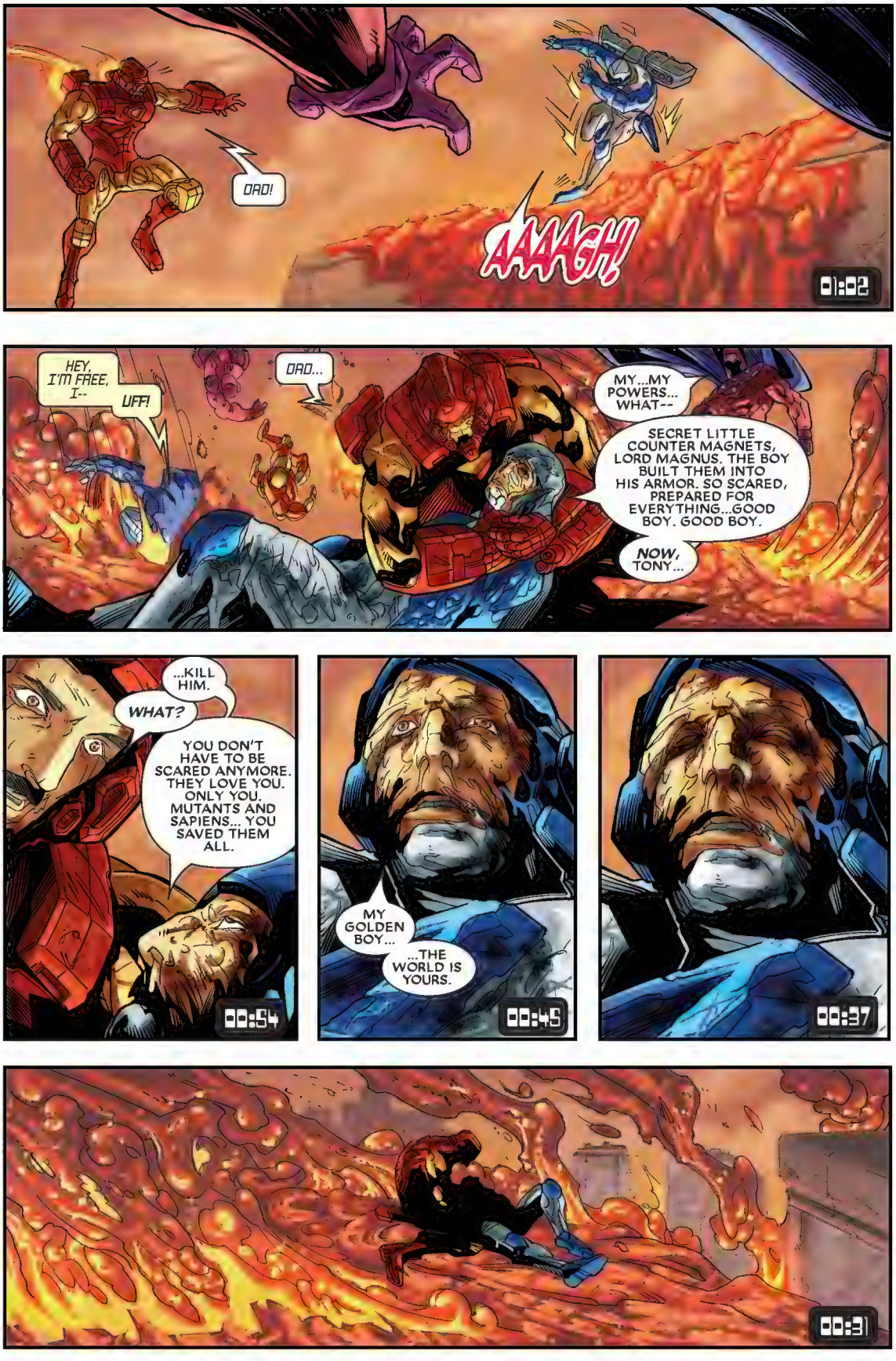
NO, TONY. WE WERE NEVER GOING TO KILL FOUR MILLION.
01:19

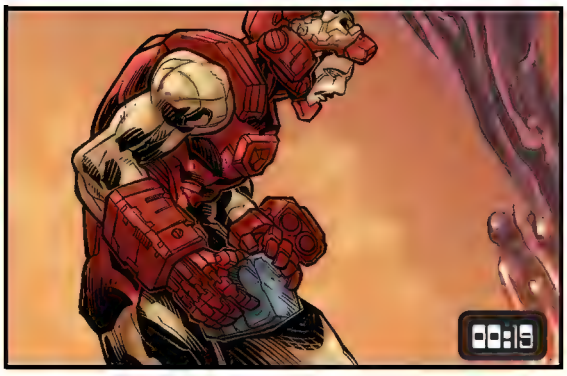
JUST ONE.
01:17

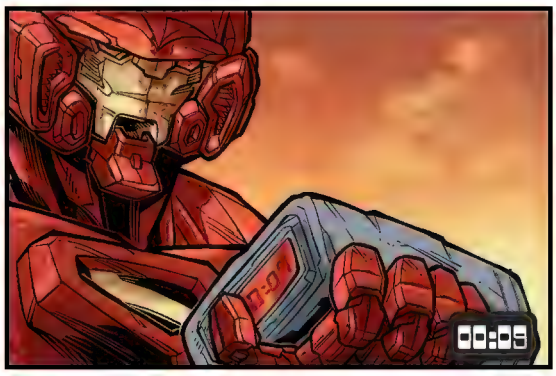
01:15
THIS IS WHAT I RAISED YOU FOR, TONY...
01:14
MMMMMMMMMM

OH, MAN...
LORD MAGNUS!
01:13


GOODBYE, IRON MAN.
01:10


DAD!
AAAAGH!
01:02
HEY, I'M FREE, I--
UFF!
DAD...
MY...MY POWERS... WHAT--
SECRET LITTLE COUNTER MAGNETS, LORD MAGNUS. THE BOY BUILT THEM INTO HIS ARMOR. SO SCARED, PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING...GOOD BOY. GOOD BOY.
NOW, TONY...
...KILL HIM.
WHAT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED ANYMORE. THEY LOVE YOU. ONLY YOU. MUTANTS AND SAPIENS... YOU SAVED THEM ALL.
00:54
MY GOLDEN BOY...
...THE WORLD IS YOURS.
00:45
00:37
00:31


00:15

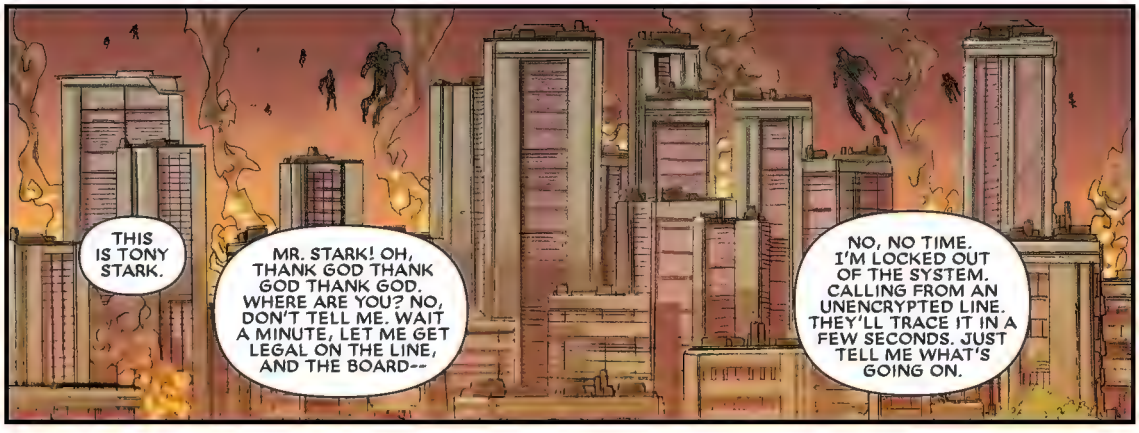

00:09

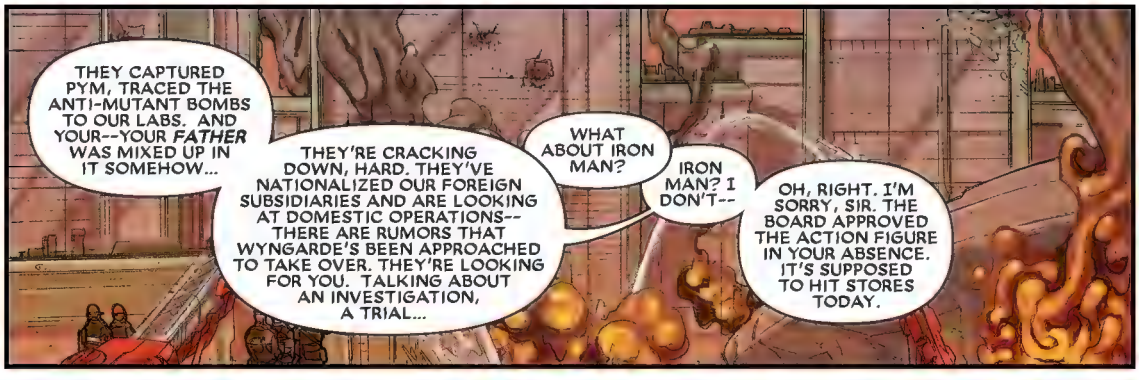
I UNDERSTAND.
YOU DREAM OF BEING THE MAN YOUR FATHER WANTED YOU TO BE.
00:07

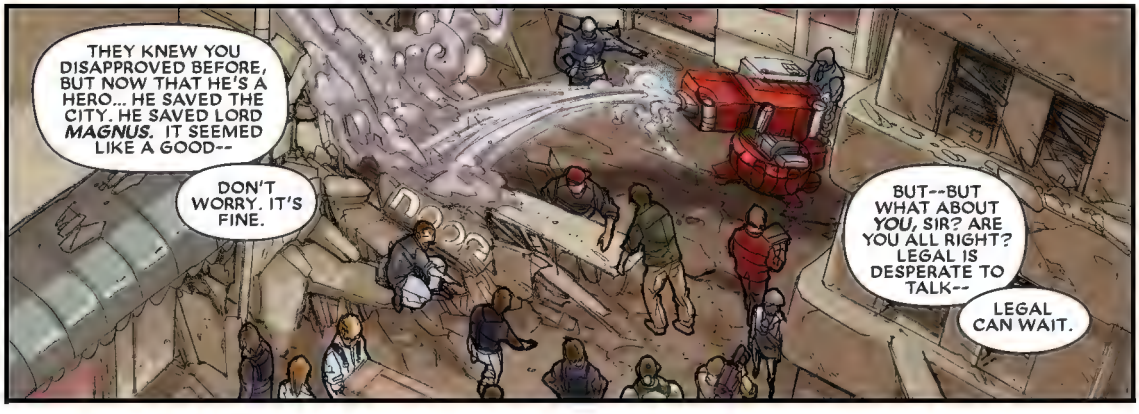
SO KILL ME.
BUT EVERY SAPIEN ON THE PLANET WILL PAY THE PRICE. YOUR WHOLE WORLD WILL CRUMBLE TO PIECES.
00:04

IT ALREADY HAS.
BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN THE MAN MY FATHER WANTED.
00:03

PFFFFT
AND I PRAY I NEVER WILL BE.
00:02


THIS IS TONY STARK.
MR. STARK! OH, THANK GOD THANK GOD THANK GOD. WHERE ARE YOU? NO, DON'T TELL ME. WAIT A MINUTE, LET ME GET LEGAL ON THE LINE, AND THE BOARD--
NO, NO TIME. I'M LOCKED OUT OF THE SYSTEM. CALLING FROM AN UNENCRYPTED LINE. THEY'LL TRACE IT IN A FEW SECONDS. JUST TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.


THEY CAPTURED PYM, TRACED THE ANTI-MUTANT BOMBS TO OUR LABS. AND YOUR--YOUR *FATHER* WAS MIXED UP IN IT SOMEHOW...
THEY'RE CRACKING DOWN, HARD. THEY'VE NATIONALIZED OUR FOREIGN SUBSIDIARIES AND ARE LOOKING AT DOMESTIC OPERATIONS-- THERE ARE RUMORS THAT WYNGARDE'S BEEN APPROACHED TO TAKE OVER. THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOU. TALKING ABOUT AN INVESTIGATION, A TRIAL...
WHAT ABOUT IRON MAN?
IRON MAN? I DON'T--
OH, RIGHT. I'M SORRY, SIR. THE BOARD APPROVED THE ACTION FIGURE IN YOUR ABSENCE. IT'S SUPPOSED TO HIT STORES TODAY.


THEY KNEW YOU DISAPPROVED BEFORE, BUT NOW THAT HE'S A HERO... HE SAVED THE CITY. HE SAVED LORD *MAGNUS*. IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD--
DON'T WORRY. IT'S FINE.
BUT--BUT WHAT ABOUT *YOU*, SIR? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? LEGAL IS DESPERATE TO TALK--
LEGAL CAN WAIT.

I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
END.

CAPTAIN AMERICA #10

During the dark days of the early 1940s, a covert military experiment turned a young and frail Steve Rogers into America's first Super-Soldier, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

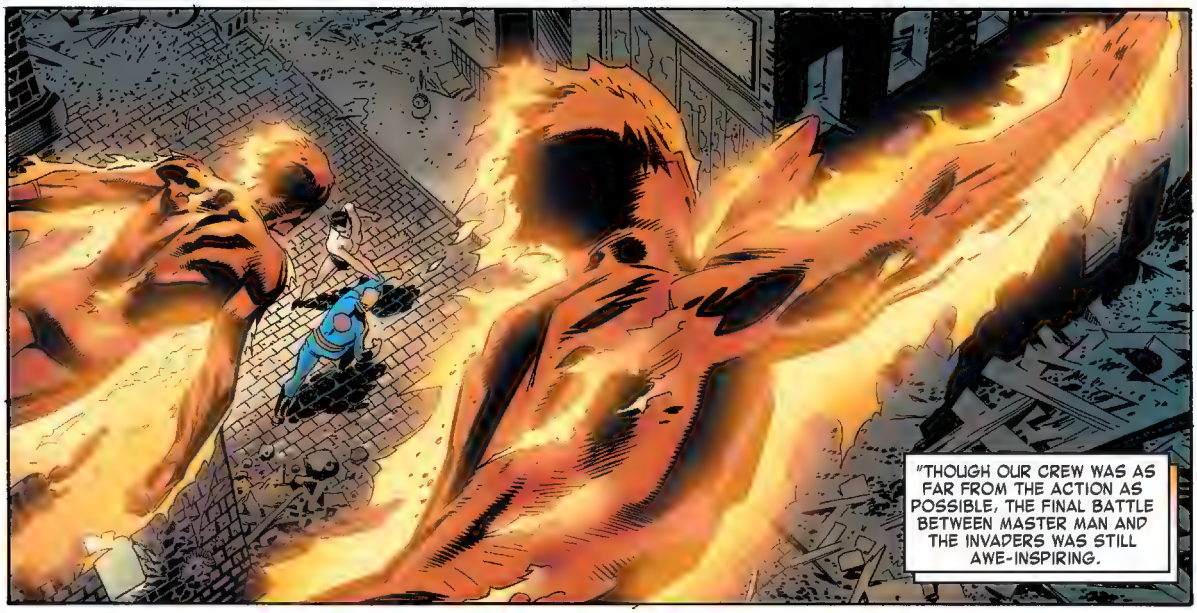
I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE TOO SURPRISED... WHAT WAS IT MY EX-WIFE USED TO SAY?
New York City VETERANS
"YOU GOT EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED, STEVE ROGERS...IF THE WORLD DIDN'T TURN OUT HOW YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD, WELL...
"...THAT'S JUST LIFE. WELCOME TO IT."
--STILL REMEMBER MY GRANDDAD TELLING ME AND MY BROTHER ALL ABOUT SEEING CAPTAIN AMERICA ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
THE INSPIRATION THAT THIS GREAT MAN WAS TO ALL THOSE SOLDIERS...
...AND THE RISKS THAT HE AND HIS PARTNER BUCKY TOOK...HOW MANY TIMES THEY CAME CLOSE TO DEATH...
US

The English Channel— April 1945
BUCKY! I'M LOSING MY GRIP!
STEVE! HERE--TAKE MY HAND!
IT'S PROBABLY BOOBY-TRAPPED.
IT IS! I SEE IT...
FFRRZZHITT
NO TIME FOR SUBTLETY...

NOW LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T GET THIS PACKAGE TO RETURN TO SENDER!
HERR BARON! THE DRONE PLANE!
VAS IS--?
NEIN!

NOW!
GO! GO!
WE DID IT, STEVE...ZEMO'S DEAD...
...WHAT NOW?

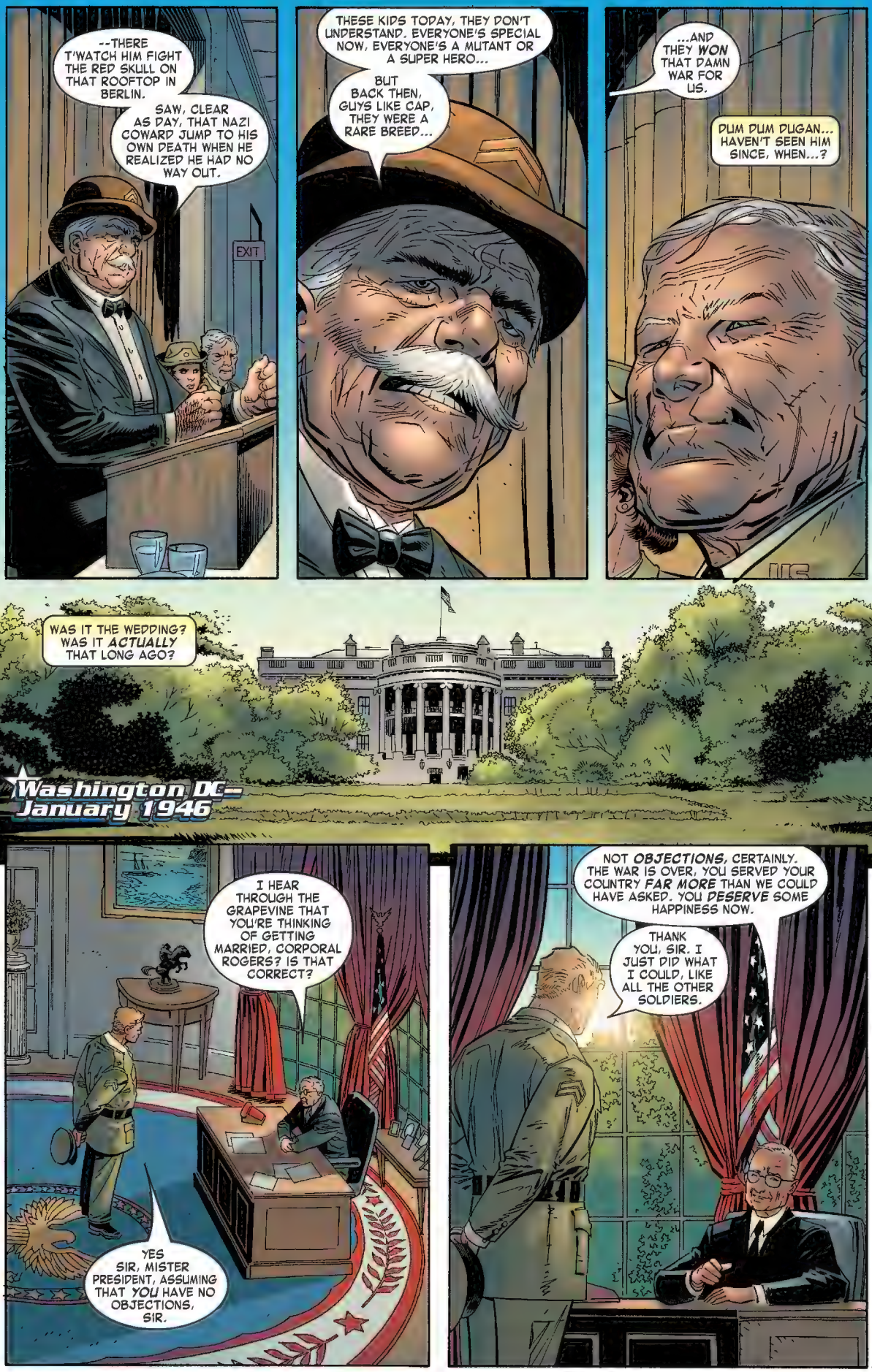
Berlin, Germany—
April 1945
--IS EDWARD R. MURROW, BROADCASTING LIVE FROM THE FALL OF BERLIN, AND THIS REPORTER, FOR ONE, WILL NEVER FORGET THE THINGS WE SAW IN THIS CITY OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS...
"...WHEN CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE INVADERS LED ALLIED TROOPS TO VICTORY OVER THE LAST NAZI REGIMENTS HOLDING THE CITY.


"THOUGH OUR CREW WAS AS FAR FROM THE ACTION AS POSSIBLE, THE FINAL BATTLE BETWEEN MASTER MAN AND THE INVADERS WAS STILL AWE-INSPIRING.

"THE BLOWS THESE SUPERHUMANS STRUCK SHOOK THE VERY GROUND UNDER OUR FEET...

"...AND EVEN HALF A BLOCK AWAY, THE HEAT FROM THE HUMAN TORCH'S FLAMING FORM WAS *BLISTERING.*

"THE DEATH OF THE RED SKULL WAS NOT CAPTURED ON FILM, BUT THE IMAGE OF HIS FALLEN FORM, WITH HIS LONG-TIME ENEMY STANDING OVER HIM, WAS BROADCAST AROUND THE WORLD LAST NIGHT...
"...AS WAS THE MOST AMAZING PART OF THIS WHOLE WEEK.
"WHEN THIS MORNING, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY EMERGED FROM A BUNKER UNDER THE CITY...
"...WITH THE FÜHRER HIMSELF IN THEIR CUSTODY."
YES, ADOLF HITLER, LEADER OF THE THIRD REICH, THE WORST MASS MURDERER IN MODERN HISTORY, WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE NOW, FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE.
IT'S TRULY A GREAT DAY IN BERLIN, A DAY THIS REPORTER, FOR ONE, OFTEN WONDERED IF HE'D LIVE TO SEE.

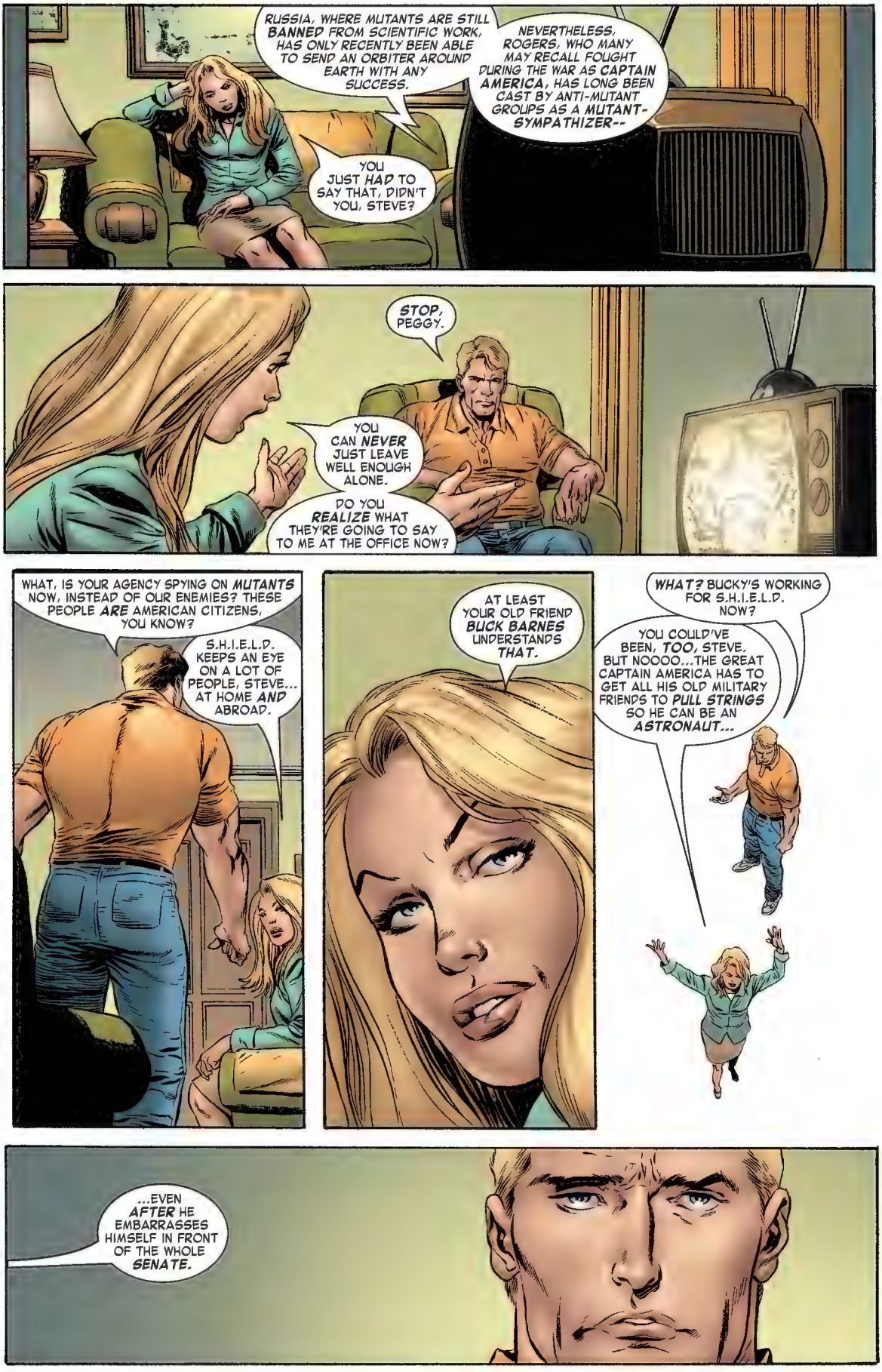

--THERE T'WATCH HIM FIGHT THE RED SKULL ON THAT ROOFTOP IN BERLIN.
SAW, CLEAR AS DAY, THAT NAZI COWARD JUMP TO HIS OWN DEATH WHEN HE REALIZED HE HAD NO WAY OUT.
EXIT
THESE KIDS TODAY, THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND. EVERYONE'S SPECIAL NOW, EVERYONE'S A MUTANT OR A SUPER HERO...
BUT BACK THEN, GUYS LIKE CAP, THEY WERE A RARE BREED...
...AND THEY WON THAT DAMN WAR FOR US.
DUM DUM DUGAN... HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE, WHEN...?
WAS IT THE WEDDING? WAS IT ACTUALLY THAT LONG AGO?
Washington DC— January 1946
I HEAR THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE THAT YOU'RE THINKING OF GETTING MARRIED, CORPORAL ROGERS? IS THAT CORRECT?
YES SIR, MISTER PRESIDENT, ASSUMING THAT YOU HAVE NO OBJECTIONS, SIR.
NOT OBJECTIONS, CERTAINLY. THE WAR IS OVER, YOU SERVED YOUR COUNTRY FAR MORE THAN WE COULD HAVE ASKED. YOU DESERVE SOME HAPPINESS NOW.
THANK YOU, SIR. I JUST DID WHAT I COULD, LIKE ALL THE OTHER SOLDIERS.

ALWAYS MODEST, ROGERS...
IN ANY CASE, BESS WOULD BOX MY EARS RIGHT OFF MY HEAD IF I DIDN'T LET HER PERSONAL HERO TIE THE KNOT.
BUT I DO HAVE A FEW CONCERNS. AS YOU KNOW, OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ARE NOT GOOD, EVEN AFTER THE ALLIANCE WE HAD.
AND, WHILE I CAN'T SEE US GOING TO BATTLE WITH THEM, TENSIONS ARE GOING TO BE HIGH THERE FOR SOME TIME, AND WE MAY NEED TO CALL ON YOU AGAIN FROM TIME TO TIME.
I'LL BE HERE WHENEVER YOU NEED ME, MISTER PRESIDENT.
I KNEW YOU WOULD BE, ROGERS.
SO, WHO'S THE LUCKY GAL, AND DOES SHE KNOW WHAT SHE'S GETTING INTO?
SHE'D BETTER. SHE'S A SPY.
I MET HER WHILE SHE WAS WORKING ALONGSIDE THE FRENCH RESISTANCE.
WELL THEN, I WISH YOU BOTH LUCK.
NOW, COME WALK IN THE GARDEN WITH ME...
...I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THESE MUTANTS I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT.

IS THIS, OR IS THIS NOT, A PHOTOGRAPH FROM YOUR WEDDING, CAPTAIN?
Senate Hearings On Mutant Activity In The United States— 1951
YES, IT IS, SENATOR McCARTHY.
AND IS THAT OR IS THAT NOT, PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER AS HE WAS KNOWN DURING THE WAR, STANDING NOT TWO FEET AWAY FROM YOUR BRIDE?
THAT'S NAMOR RIGHT NEXT TO PEGGY, YES.
AND YET YOU'RE REFUSING TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS...MUTANT.
WHILE CLEARLY YOU'VE MAINTAINED A FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM BEYOND YOUR MISSIONS TOGETHER DURING THE WAR.
I'M NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHY I'M BEING QUESTIONED ABOUT NAMOR AT ALL, SENATOR. MAYBE THAT'S THE PROBLEM?
YOU'RE OUT OF ORDER, CAPTAIN. WE'RE ASKING THE QUESTIONS HERE, NOT YOU.
NOW, UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING THROUGH THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, YOU'LL HAVE SEEN THE REPORTS OF MUTANT ACTIVITY IN THIS COUNTRY...
ABC

THEY'VE INFILTRATED ALL ASPECTS OF OUR SOCIETY. THEY'VE PRACTICALLY TAKEN OVER HOLLYWOOD, TRYING TO SPREAD THEIR MESSAGE TO OUR CHILDREN...
WHAT MESSAGE WOULD THAT BE, SENATOR?
THAT THEY'RE NORMAL. THAT THEY'RE JUST THE SAME AS US.
DID YOU KNOW STUDIES INDICATE THAT NEARLY ONE IN EVERY FIVE THOUSAND U.S. CITIZENS IS NOW BORN A MUTANT, ROGERS?
I WAS UNAWARE OF THAT, SENATOR.
WELL, NOW YOU'RE AWARE, AND MAYBE NOW YOU'LL ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS.
I'VE GOT SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT ANOTHER FRIEND OF YOURS, AS WELL...THAT SIDEKICK OF THE HUMAN TORCH... THAT TOTO...
HIS NAME IS TORO, AND I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DECLINE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT HIM, TOO, SENATOR.
THIS IS OVER.
YOU SIT RIGHT BACK DOWN, ROGERS!
YOU'LL DO AS YOU'RE ORDERED! THAT UNIFORM YOU WEAR PUTS YOU UNDER OUR COMMAND AS MUCH AS IT DOES THE PRESIDENT'S.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I'M AFRAID I'LL RESIGN, SENATOR MCCARTHY... BECAUSE I DIDN'T SIGN ON FOR THIS. I WON'T INFORM ON MY FRIENDS.
I WON'T WATCH MY COUNTRY SINK INTO FEAR WHILE YOU GET DRUNK ON YOUR OWN POWER.
OUT OF ORDER, SIR! YOU ARE OUT OF--

1955—The Moon
ASTRO-5 HAS LANDED... WE HAVE LUNAR CONTACT.
YOU ARE GO FOR LUNAR WALK, COLONEL ROGERS...
RIGHT... OH BOY...
WELL...SAY SOMETHING, ROGERS. YOU WERE CAPTAIN AMERICA, RIGHT? GIMME SOMETHING NEWSWORTHY TO FILM HERE...
THIS IS ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN... ONE GIANT LEAP FOR PEACE BETWEEN MAN AND MUTANT-KIND.
ROGERS
HOW'S THAT FOR NEWSWORTHY, WATTS?
ASTRONAUT STEVE ROGERS'S CONTROVERSIAL FIRST WORDS FROM THE MOON HAVE BEEN THE TALK OF THE NATION THESE PAST WEEKS...
BUT SOURCES AT NASA WERE QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT ROGERS WAS MERELY TRYING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE COMBINED WORK OF HUMAN AND MUTANT SCIENTISTS THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ABLE TO REACH THE MOON SO EARLY IN THE SPACE RACE.

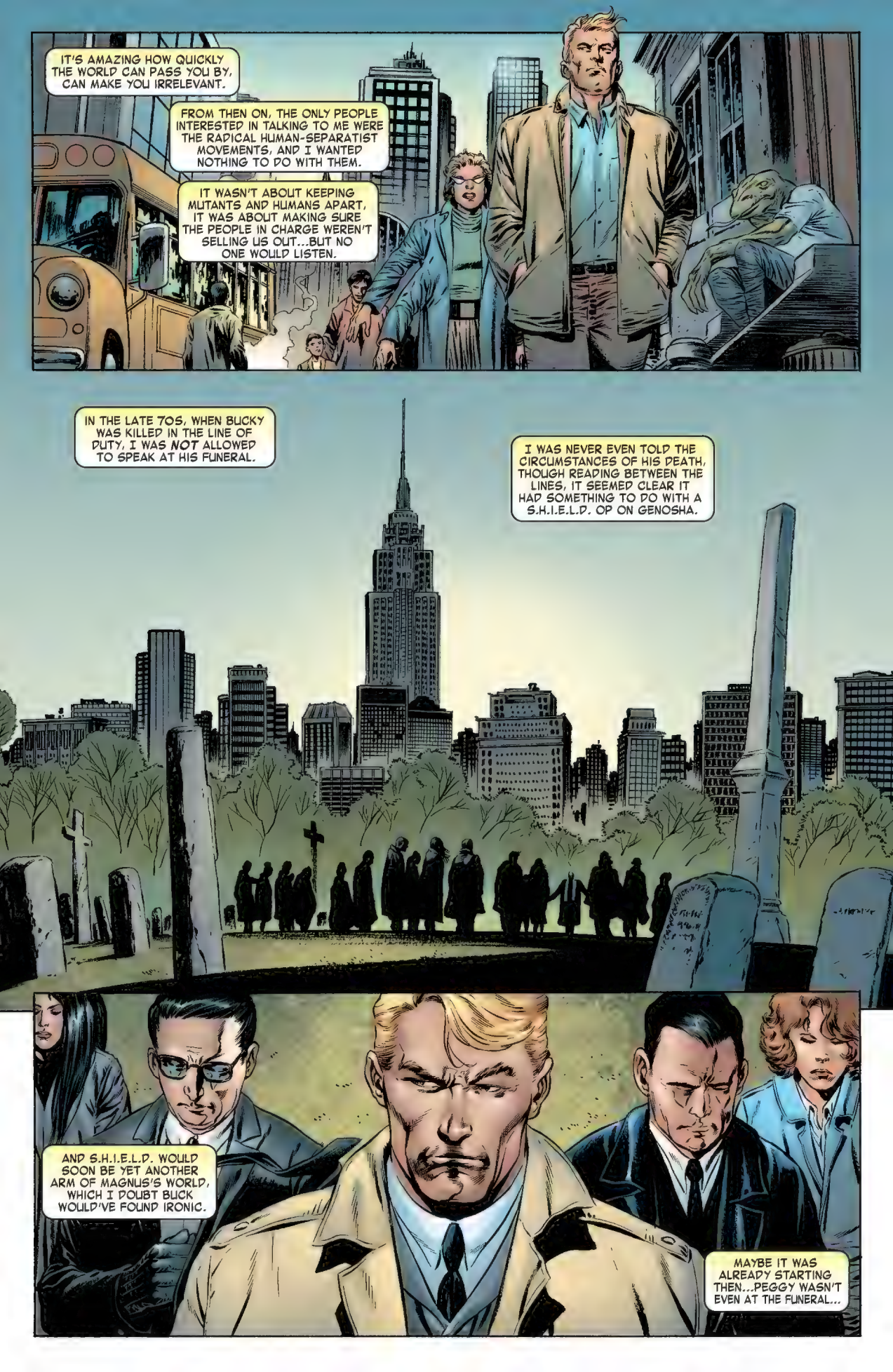

RUSSIA, WHERE MUTANTS ARE STILL BANNED FROM SCIENTIFIC WORK, HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN ABLE TO SEND AN ORBITER AROUND EARTH WITH ANY SUCCESS.
NEVERTHELESS, ROGERS, WHO MANY MAY RECALL FOUGHT DURING THE WAR AS CAPTAIN AMERICA, HAS LONG BEEN CAST BY ANTI-MUTANT GROUPS AS A MUTANT-SYMPATHIZER--
YOU JUST HAD TO SAY THAT, DIDN'T YOU, STEVE?
STOP, PEGGY.
YOU CAN NEVER JUST LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE.
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO SAY TO ME AT THE OFFICE NOW?
WHAT, IS YOUR AGENCY SPYING ON MUTANTS NOW, INSTEAD OF OUR ENEMIES? THESE PEOPLE ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS, YOU KNOW?
S.H.I.E.L.D. KEEPS AN EYE ON A LOT OF PEOPLE, STEVE... AT HOME AND ABROAD.
AT LEAST YOUR OLD FRIEND BUCK BARNES UNDERSTANDS THAT.
WHAT? BUCKY'S WORKING FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. NOW?
YOU COULD'VE BEEN, TOO, STEVE. BUT NOOOO...THE GREAT CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS TO GET ALL HIS OLD MILITARY FRIENDS TO PULL STRINGS SO HE CAN BE AN ASTRONAUT...
...EVEN AFTER HE EMBARRASSES HIMSELF IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE SENATE.

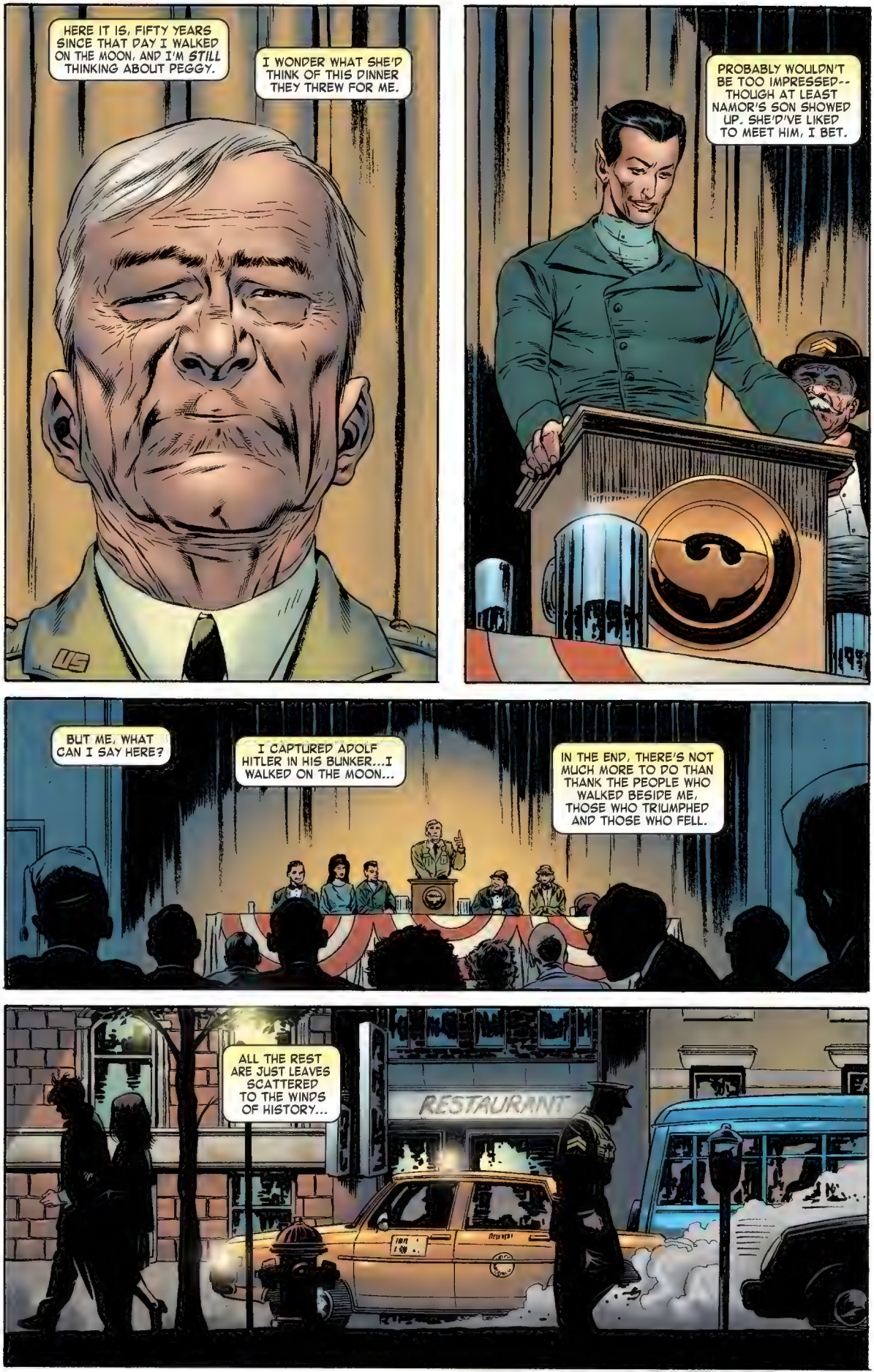
New York City— 1957
BAR
I WAS SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOU AND PEGGY...
...I WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU TWO'D GO THE DISTANCE.
ME TOO, BUCK...IT'S JUST, THINGS CHANGE. SHE NEVER WANTED TO BE AN ASTRONAUT'S WIFE.
AND SHE WAS NEVER TOO THRILLED WITH THE WAY I GAVE UP THE MASK, EITHER.
THAT SHOCKED A LOT OF PEOPLE, STEVE, ME INCLUDED. I TOLD YOU THAT THEN...
SURE, BUT WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF THEY ASKED YOU TO TESTIFY AGAINST TORO FOR SIMPLY BEING WHO HE IS?
I DON'T KNOW. PROBABLY THE SAME THING YOU DID... BUT IT'S HARD TO SAY...
LUCKILY, THEY DIDN'T ASK ME.

DON'T TELL ME WORKING FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS TURNED YOU PARANOID ABOUT MUTANTS, TOO?
TORO WAS YOUR BEST FRIEND.
SURE HE WAS, STEVE...BUT THAT WAS A DIFFERENT WORLD.
AND LIKE YOU SAID, THINGS CHANGE.
THE WHOLE MUTANT ISSUE ISN'T AS BLACK AND WHITE AS IT LOOKS.
SURE, THERE'RE GUYS LIKE TORO, WHO FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT BESIDE US. AND THERE'S THE HYPER-INTELLIGENT SCIENTISTS THAT HELPED US KICK THE RUSSKIS' BUTTS.
BUT IN EASTERN EUROPE, YOU'VE GOT SOME MUTANT RIGHTS GROUPS THAT ARE ESSENTIALLY TERRORISTS...
THERE ARE HUMAN TERRORISTS IN THE WORLD TOO, BUCKY. TERROR ISN'T EXCLUSIVE.
SURE, EXCEPT WITH THESE MUTANTS, THEY DON'T PLANT BOMBS...
...THEY ARE THE BOMBS.

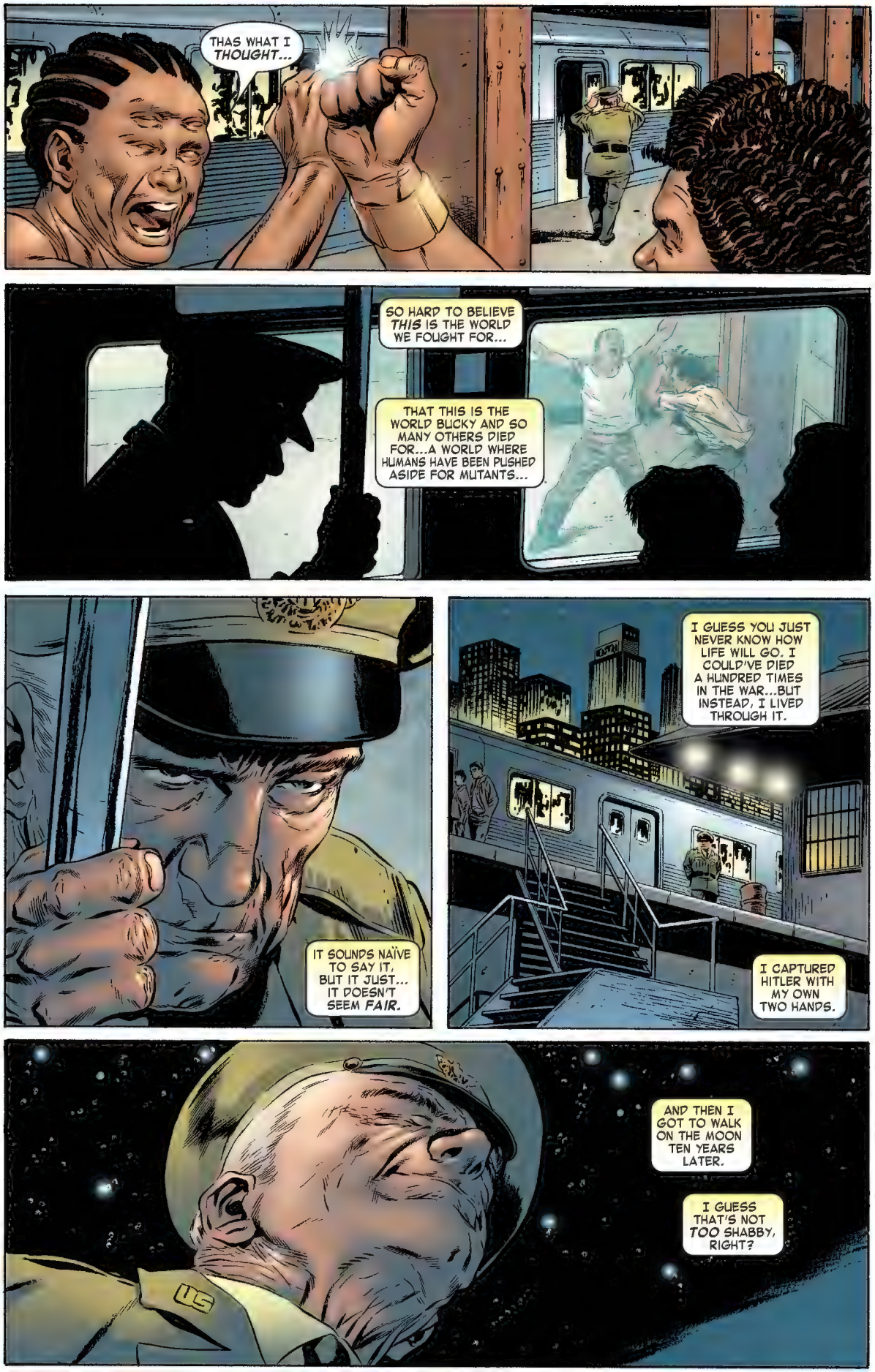
AND OF COURSE, AS THE DECADES PASSED, BUCK'S WORDS STAYED WITH ME... AND THERE WAS A LOT OF TRUTH IN THEM.
THE MUTANT ISSUE *WASN'T* BLACK AND WHITE...IT WAS ABOUT POLITICS AND PREJUDICE AND FEAR...IT WAS ABOUT SHADES OF GRAY.
AND THERE WERE SHADES OF GRAY AMONG MUTANTKIND, TOO. THERE WERE HEROES AND LEADERS, AND THERE WERE CRIMINALS AND DESPOTS...
WHY NOT, RIGHT? WHY SHOULD MUTANTS BE DIFFERENT THAN ANYONE ELSE?
AND WHILE I SPOKE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED, COLOR, OR GENETICS...
I ALSO BORE WITNESS TO A CHANGING WORLD, AS THE MUTANT POPULATION EXPLOSION BECAME SOMETHING UNDENIABLE.
REGARDLESS OF HOW MANKIND FELT, IT WAS CLEAR WE WOULD SOON BE A MINORITY...
AND IN THIS PERIOD OF CHANGE, ONE MUTANT ROSE TO PROMINENCE...MAGNUS.

AFTER HIS DESTRUCTION OF THE SENTINEL PROGRAM IN THE EARLY 70S, THE RUSHING TIDE FINALLY OVERTOOK US.
MAGNUS WAS SUDDENLY SPOKEN OF AS A WORLD LEADER, HE WAS MEETING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND DISCUSSING IDEAS...
...AND MAYBE IT WAS THE STUBBORN OLD WARHORSE IN ME, BUT MAGNUS'S VISION OF THE FUTURE, HIS IDEAS FOR PEACE, THEY DIDN'T SIT WELL WITH ME. AND PERHAPS FOOLISHLY, I SAID SO...
--WE'RE WATCHING AS LEADERS ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE FALLING INTO LINE, FALLING ALL OVER THEMSELVES TO AGREE WITH MAGNUS...
YOU ALL KNOW THAT I BEAR NO ILL-WILL TOWARD MUTANTS...I JUDGE MAN AND MUTANT ALIKE BY THEIR DEEDS AND THEIR WORDS...
AND I TELL YOU RIGHT HERE AND NOW, THAT IN MAGNUS'S WORDS I HEAR ECHOES OF MEN I'VE FACED *BEFORE*, MEN LIKE MUSSOLINI AND STALIN...
...MEN LIKE *HITLER!*
I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SURPRISED WHEN I WAS FORCED TO TAKE AN EARLY RETIREMENT FROM THE AIR FORCE SOON AFTER THAT SPEECH.
IT TURNED OUT THAT MAGNUS HAD ALREADY GOTTEN MUCH FARTHER INSIDE THE SYSTEM THAN ANYONE REALIZED, AND DISSENT WAS NOT GOING TO BE TOLERATED...


IT'S AMAZING HOW QUICKLY THE WORLD CAN PASS YOU BY, CAN MAKE YOU IRRELEVANT.
FROM THEN ON, THE ONLY PEOPLE INTERESTED IN TALKING TO ME WERE THE RADICAL HUMAN-SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS, AND I WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM.
IT WASN'T ABOUT KEEPING MUTANTS AND HUMANS APART, IT WAS ABOUT MAKING SURE THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE WEREN'T SELLING US OUT...BUT NO ONE WOULD LISTEN.
IN THE LATE 70S, WHEN BUCKY WAS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK AT HIS FUNERAL.
I WAS NEVER EVEN TOLD THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DEATH, THOUGH READING BETWEEN THE LINES, IT SEEMED CLEAR IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH A S.H.I.E.L.D. OP ON GENOSHA.
AND S.H.I.E.L.D. WOULD SOON BE YET ANOTHER ARM OF MAGNUS'S WORLD, WHICH I DOUBT BUCK WOULD'VE FOUND IRONIC.
MAYBE IT WAS ALREADY STARTING THEN...PEGGY WASN'T EVEN AT THE FUNERAL...


HERE IT IS, FIFTY YEARS SINCE THAT DAY I WALKED ON THE MOON, AND I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT PEGGY.
I WONDER WHAT SHE'D THINK OF THIS DINNER THEY THREW FOR ME.
PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE TOO IMPRESSED-- THOUGH AT LEAST NAMOR'S SON SHOWED UP. SHE'D'VE LIKED TO MEET HIM, I BET.
BUT ME, WHAT CAN I SAY HERE?
I CAPTURED ADOLF HITLER IN HIS BUNKER...I WALKED ON THE MOON...
IN THE END, THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE TO DO THAN THANK THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED BESIDE ME, THOSE WHO TRIUMPHED AND THOSE WHO FELL.
ALL THE REST ARE JUST LEAVES SCATTERED TO THE WINDS OF HISTORY...
RESTAURANT

...THE HISTORY OF A WORLD THAT NO LONGER EXISTS... THAT'S NO LONGER RELEVANT.
LAFAYETTE
SUBWA
OUTTA THE WAY, OLD MAN SAPIEN!
YEAH, MOVE YOUR *#$, GRAMPA! MAKE WAY FOR THE MUTE CREW REVIEW!
WHAT? YOU THINK YOU HARD?


THAS WHAT I THOUGHT...
SO HARD TO BELIEVE THIS IS THE WORLD WE FOUGHT FOR...
THAT THIS IS THE WORLD BUCKY AND SO MANY OTHERS DIED FOR...A WORLD WHERE HUMANS HAVE BEEN PUSHED ASIDE FOR MUTANTS...
IT SOUNDS NAÏVE TO SAY IT, BUT IT JUST... IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR.
I GUESS YOU JUST NEVER KNOW HOW LIFE WILL GO. I COULD'VE DIED A HUNDRED TIMES IN THE WAR...BUT INSTEAD, I LIVED THROUGH IT.
I CAPTURED HITLER WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS.
AND THEN I GOT TO WALK ON THE MOON TEN YEARS LATER.
I GUESS THAT'S NOT TOO SHABBY, RIGHT?

AND WHAT IS IT PEGGY USED TO SAY?
DAILY BUGLE
CAP TO TESTIFY
BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE
YOU GOT EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED, STEVE ROGERS, IF THE WORLD DIDN'T TURN OUT HOW YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD...
...WELL, THAT'S JUST LIFE...
STILL, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A LOT DIFFERENT THAN THIS.
THE END

THE PULSE #10

It was the worst day in Avengers history.
The Scarlet Witch suffered a total nervous
breakdown after losing control of her reality-altering powers.
Beloved Avengers Hawkeye, Ant-Man, and The Vision lost their lives.
Without funding to keep going, the rest of the team quietly disbanded.

That was six months ago.

HOUSE OF M

THE PULSE

Magneto has lost the war against ordinary humans for which he sacrificed the well-being of his children. Now he is forced to watch his daughter Wanda, the Scarlet Witch, suffer a loss of control over both her powers and her grip on reality. Quicksilver, Wanda's brother Pietro, pleads with their estranged father to help her.

Mutant leader Charles Xavier, who is unable to help the Scarlet Witch, gathers the New Avengers and the X-Men to decide how to proceed. The heroes are not convinced that killing Wanda is the only solution, so they travel to the mutant nation of Genosha to confront her, in the hope of discovering what it is that she wants.

Then the world burns to white. Reality as we knew it is gone...

To be replaced by a society in which humans are the oppressed minority and mutants run the culture, ruling over all existing countries, religions, and politics. A kingdom united under the House of M.

Only Wolverine and a little girl named Layla Miller wake up with memories of the world the way it was. Layla also discovers that she is a mutant with the power to unlock the buried memories of others around her.

Logan meets the Sapien Resistance, led by Luke Cage; they have already encountered Layla and had their memories restored by her. Among Luke's gathered heroes is Hawkeye, back from the dead.

But the information of his death and reincarnation is too much for him; he disappears.

Bunch of
$%#@
horse$#@%.

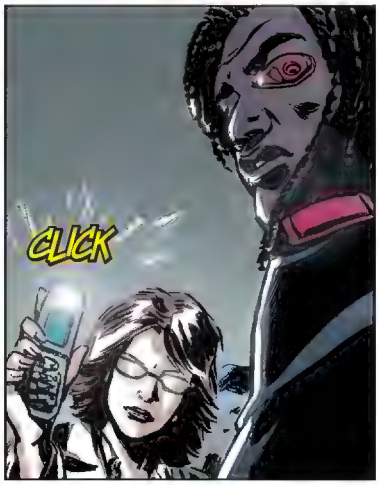
New York City, Today
STARK
POLICE LINE
DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LIN
Can I help you?

Just passing by and--
ICE LINE · DO NOT CROSS
You're Katherine Farrell from the Daily Bugle.
You're thinking of writing a story on this crime scene.
What level mutant psychic are you, Agent?
Higher than you.
Move along.
I'm allowed to stand here and--
And I'm allowed to bring you in for questioning if I see you as a potential problem.
That could really screw up a person's day--
And night--
And the next day.
Move along.
STARK
NOT CROSS
Any comment on what has happened here, then?
A Sapien hopped up on MGH ran through a plate glass door.
That's why S.H.I.E.L.D. is here? A kid hopped up on--
Standard procedure.
S.H.I.E.L.D. Red Guard?

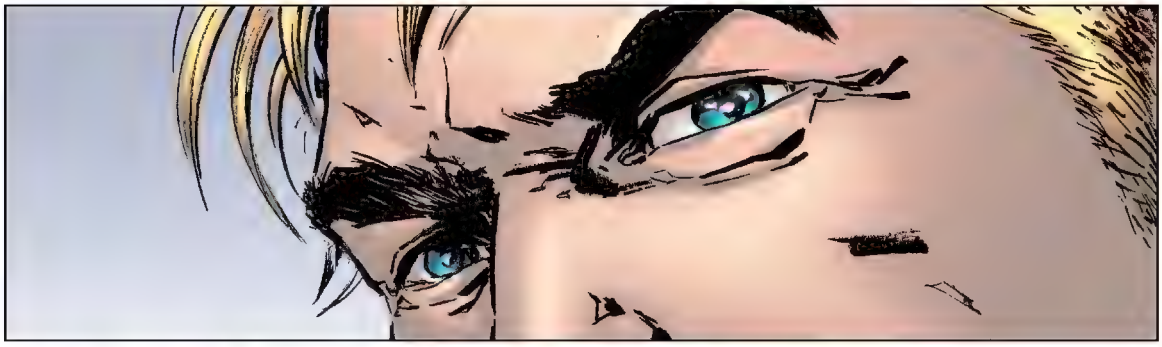
No comment.
Did someone threaten to blow up Stark Tower?
Move along, ma'am. Final warning.
DO NOT CROSS

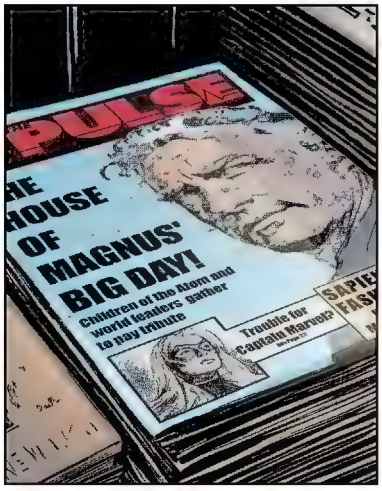
People have a right to know why Sebastian Shaw is here.

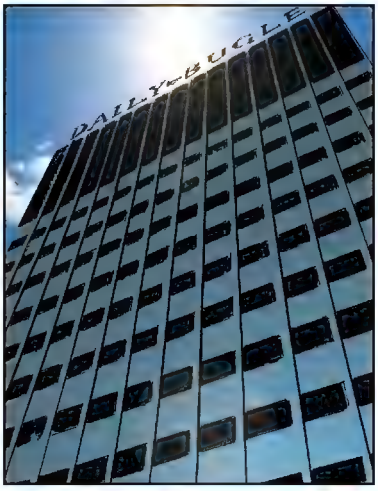
People have a right to be... safe.


CLICK

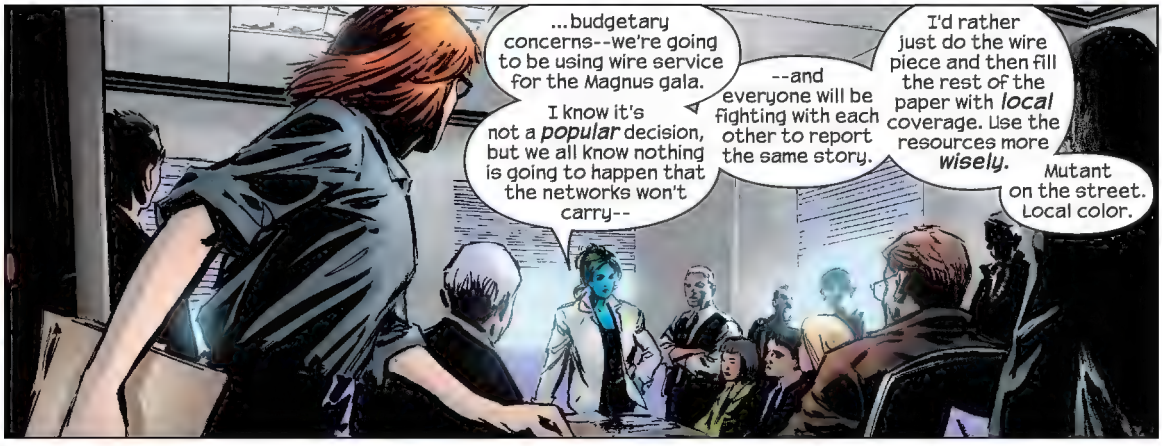
CROSS




PULSE
HE
HOUSE
OF
MAGNUS'
BIG DAY!
Children of the Atom and
world leaders gather
to pay tribute
Trouble for
Captain Marvel?


DAILY BUGLE

Where is everyone?
Buy a watch.
Oh no.


...budgetary concerns--we're going to be using wire service for the Magnus gala.
I know it's not a *popular* decision, but we all know nothing is going to happen that the networks won't carry--
--and everyone will be fighting with each other to report the same story.
I'd rather just do the wire piece and then fill the rest of the paper with *local* coverage. Use the resources more *wisely*.
Mutant on the street. Local color.

I'd like to revisit with a couple of survivors of Magnus' Central Park victory...
Do a piece on the Sentinel tribute in the--

Ms. Farrell, don't make *me* make *you* an example.
The 3 o'clock starts at 3 o'clock.

I was--I was at Stark Tower.
There was some brouhaha. S.H.I.E.L.D. was there. The Red Guard is there. There's a story and I--

We'll wait for S.H.I.E.L.D. clearance.
Mr. Urich, would you take the lead on the local M coverage and go to the memorial and--
Um--

Why?

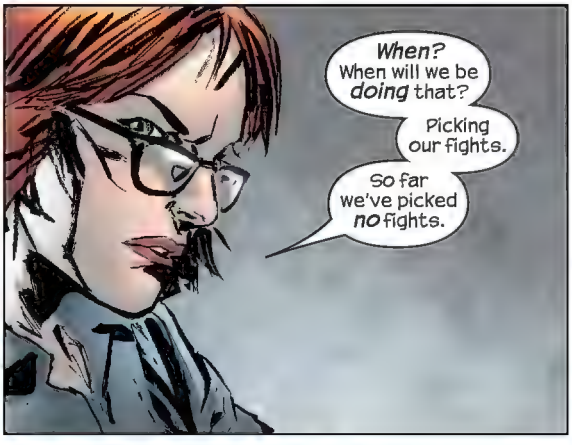
I'm sorry?
Why would we just wait for clearance? Why-why do we need to--?
Because if something *did* happen and S.H.I.E.L.D. is there--it involves our safety.
And those who *protect* us need our cooperation to--
Sebastian Shaw was there.
The agents told me it was a kid whacked on MGH and then Sebastian Shaw, with a flank of Red Guard, walked through the crime scene.
Really?
Which is... unusual.
Agreed.
And we'll wait for clearance.
Isn't it our job to investigate anything and everything that happens in this city?
Aren't we reporters? And not government press agents?
This conversation would have been *so* much more appealing to me at 3 when the meeting began.
Go make a paper, everyone.

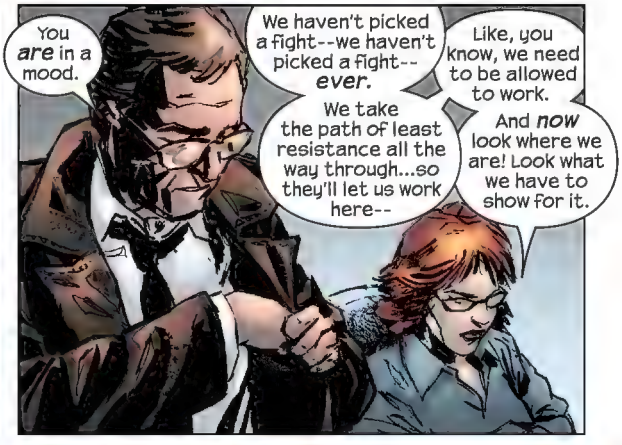
Ugh!
Yeah, what was *that* exactly?
I should be able to speak my mind.

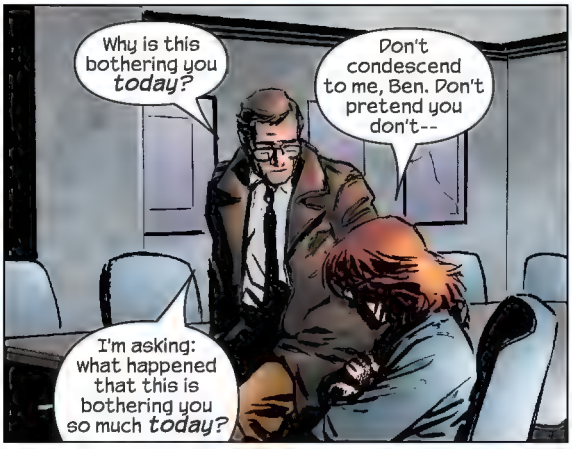
Uh-huh.
It's a *mutants* world we live in.
Ugh!
You'd think you'd know that by now.
Sell-out.
Who, me or her?

All of us.
This is so, so, *soooo* far from what my goals were in this business.
What *were* your goals in this business?
I'm actually embarrassed to be breathing.

Advice: Pick your fights.


When? When will we be *doing* that?
Picking our fights.
So far we've picked *no* fights.


You *are* in a mood.
We haven't picked a fight--we haven't picked a fight-- *ever.*
We take the path of least resistance all the way through...so they'll let us work here--
Like, you know, we need to be allowed to work.
And *now* look where we are! Look what we have to show for it.


Why is this bothering you *today?*
Don't condescend to me, Ben. Don't pretend you don't--
I'm asking: what happened that this is bothering you so much *today?*

Today feels different.

We're lucky--we *are* lucky to have these jobs.
We *do* get to work and every *once in a while* we get to really sink our teeth into something that effects change.
Real change.
You do.
Me, not so much.
Because I pick my fights.
And I don't take on my editor-in-chief in front of her staff.
Yeah, that wasn't one of my best moments.
If I were you? I'd write something truly... *inspired* today.
It was that bad?
Write something inspired.

DAILY BUGLE

TAP TAP TAP

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

in the Nazi death camp in Auschwi
Poland, and the only member of hi
family to survive the camp, Magnu
discovered himself to be one of t
earliest reported mutants. Magn

REVIEW RG

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

York City ended in Magnus unveilin
proof of a world wide multi-governm
anti-mutant conspiracy that funnele
all the way up to our elected world
leaders of the time including Amer
President Richard Nixon.

REVIEW RG

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

Wasn't there a picture with Magnus and Nixon?

Can't remember...

BUGLE ARCHIVES

SQUEAK

Ah!

Ah!
FUMP

Do you know who I am?
I-I-- don't hurt me.
Who am I?
I-- I can't see.
Who are you?
I'm a reporter.
I'm I'm j-just a reporter.
Well, I only read the sports section.
When I was alive.
What?
Maybe I *should* have read more when I was alive, maybe I'd understand what the $%#@ is going on.
What does this say?
I can't--
Tell me what this says!
I need my glasses.

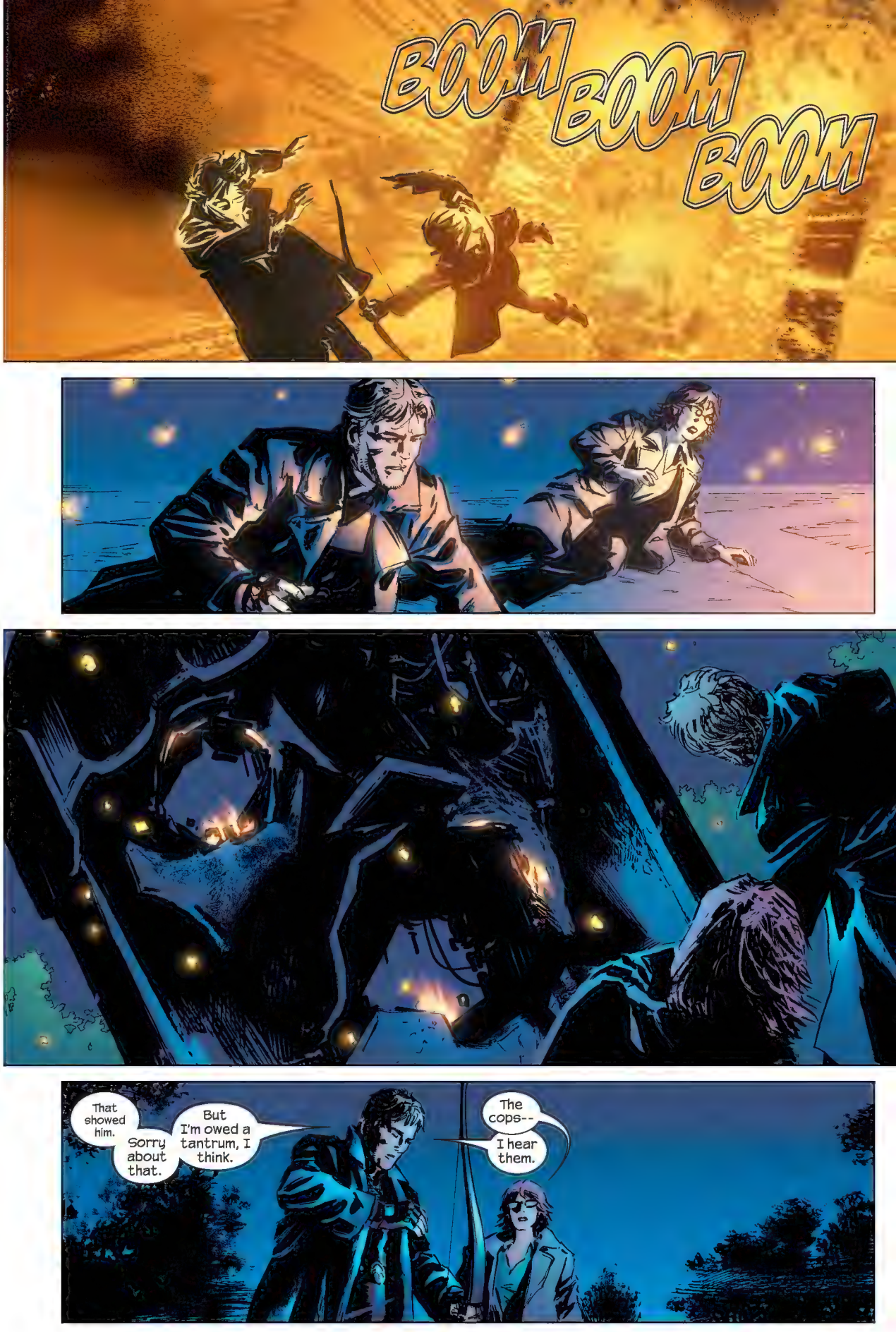
Here!
Don't--just don't!
It's--it's about the Magnus tribute in Central Park.
What? Magnus tribute in Central Park?
AVENGER HAWKEYE DEAD
FILE PHOTO
MYSTERY SURROUNDS THE FALLEN HEROES FATE
By Kat Farrell
Government authorities and representatives of the avengers have confirmed that costumed hero Hawkeye was, as previously rumored, part of the destruction that fell on Avengers Mansion early this week. He joins the confirmed deaths of Scott Lang a.k.a. Ant-Man and TheVision.
Hawkeye was one of the elder statement of the perennial supergroup. His colorful statements to the press and public confrontations with Captain America kept him a fan favorite during the many incarnations of the Avengers.
There will be no funeral service or memorial at the
This article!
Read this article!
Sentinel Landmark Declared
By NED LEEDS
The h-headline reads: Sentinel memorial landmark declared. After years of debate and delay, the city council will dedicate its national Magnus memorial, the three-story-tall decapitated--
That is unbelievable.
Please just let me--
You really don't know I ever existed.
I know you think you're having a bad day now.
But...I found out today that I died a few months ago.
Y'know, so...top that.

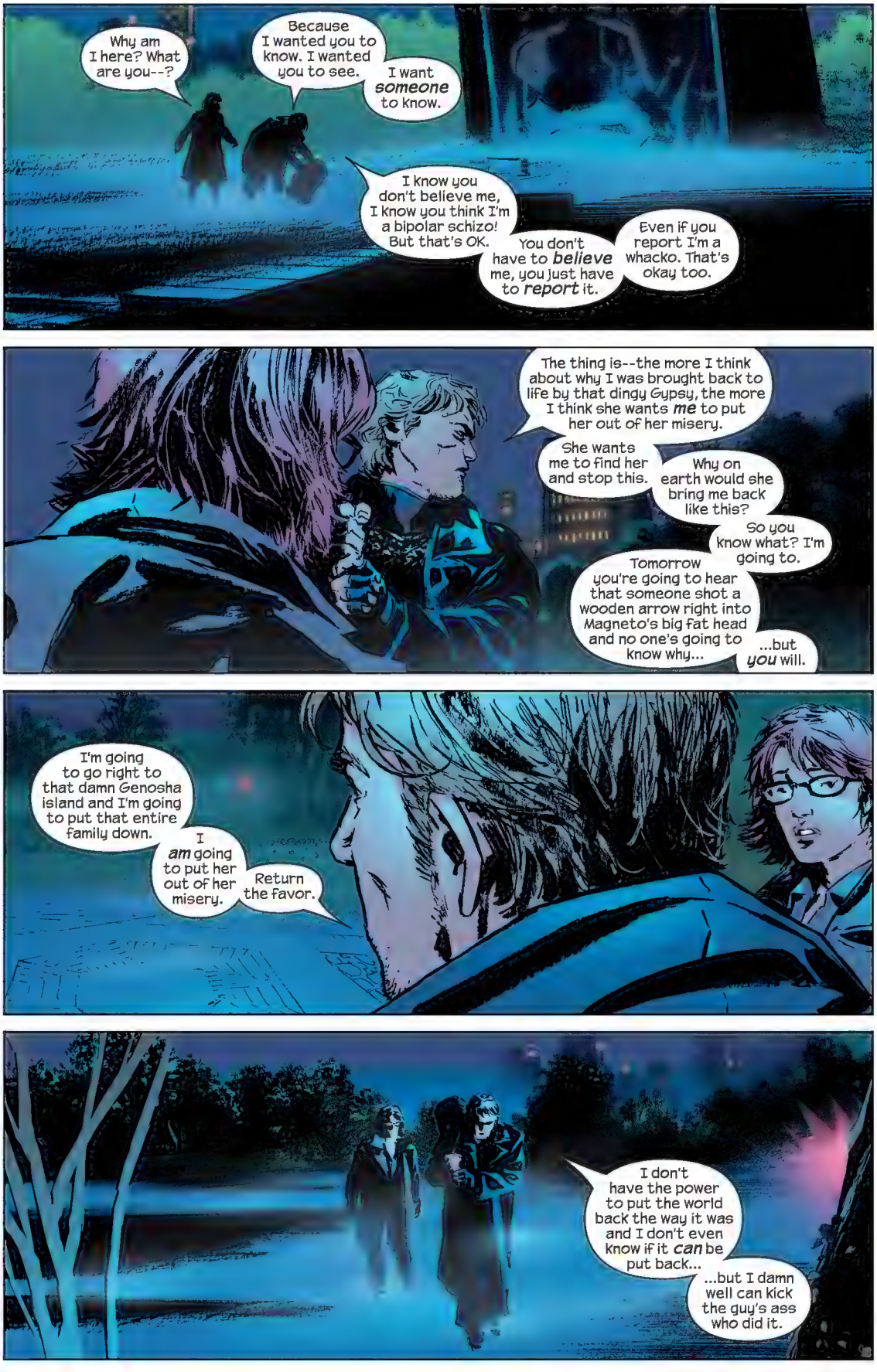
You're a reporter? That what you said?
You want a story? I got a story.
I used to be a moderately successful super hero.
Had an action figure and everything.
And then I went and got dead.
Wanda.
Kinda had a thing for her once.
And she goes and flips out and takes me out in a crazy mutant tantrum.
Jeez...
Wanda and I didn't always get along but I never thought she harbored on me like that.
Wanda Maximoff?
Yeah. How about that? I'm dead and she's a princess.
You think she-- she killed you?
I wish I could, I don't know, jam a torch into your armpit like they did in that Indiana Jones movie so you'd wake the hell up and believe me.
See what I see.
I was killed months ago and now here I am in this mutant paradise-slash-nightmare.
And-and the illusions-- they're so paper thin.
That's the amazing part. It's paper thin.
Which of course means my existence here...is paper thin.

Before I died, Magneto, Magnus, your king, was a mutant terrorist and his daughter ended up with mutant powers she couldn't control and she killed me and a bunch of other super heroes in her meltdown.
'Course I didn't know that at the time...
I thought I died a hero, in a blaze of glory...
Seems I died a spaz not knowing who was pulling my strings.
Which sucks by any measure, but then I get to wake up to this.
And I would have been fine with it, just going about my day in this world as a costumed rebel.
Numb to the whole-damn world, just like you...
If not for this little teeny-bopper mutant who couldn't control her powers and woke my brain up even though I specifically asked her not to.
And you don't believe me.
I just--I'm not sure what you're talking about.
I didn't mean to attack you. I'm just a little on edge.
Being a ghost and all.
I swear, you can't tell from looking at me, but I'm one of the good guys.
Okay. Can--can I g--?
What's your name again?
Clint.
You know what? I want to show you something. Come with me.
If you're not busy or anything.

EW YORK CITY
OTANICAL
GARDENS
Est. 1966
W YORK CITY
OTANICAL
GARDENS
Est. 1966
This was the mansion.
Avengers Mansion.
NEW YORK CITY BOTANICAL GARDENS
The greatest heroes in the world gathered *here* to fight foes they couldn't fight individually.
Thor, Captain America...
This is where I lived and this is where I died.
God, did we screw it up.
Damn it.
Can I express to you in words how insane it is to have memories of how your life *was* versus how Magneto wants you to *think* it was?
I have *both* now.
I remember blowing up and I remember not.
I remember *both* things.
I have both memories swirling around in my head at the same time, so if I seem a little dis-combobulated...
You'll... forgive--

THE MUTANT BLOOD LOST HERE WAS THE LAST THAT WILL EVER BE LOST IN WAR.
-MAGNUS
Bastard.

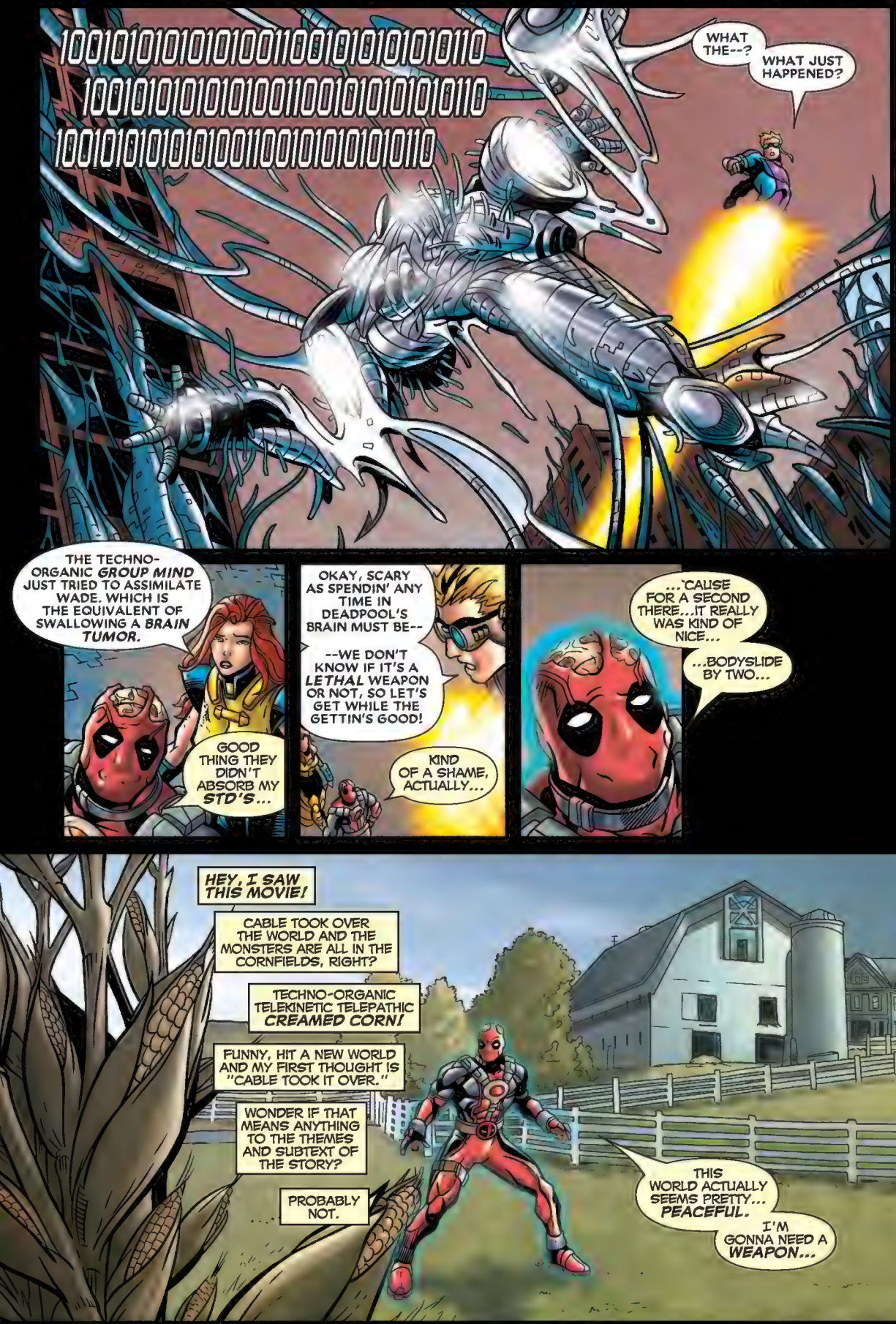

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
That showed him.
Sorry about that.
But I'm owed a tantrum, I think.
The cops--
I hear them.

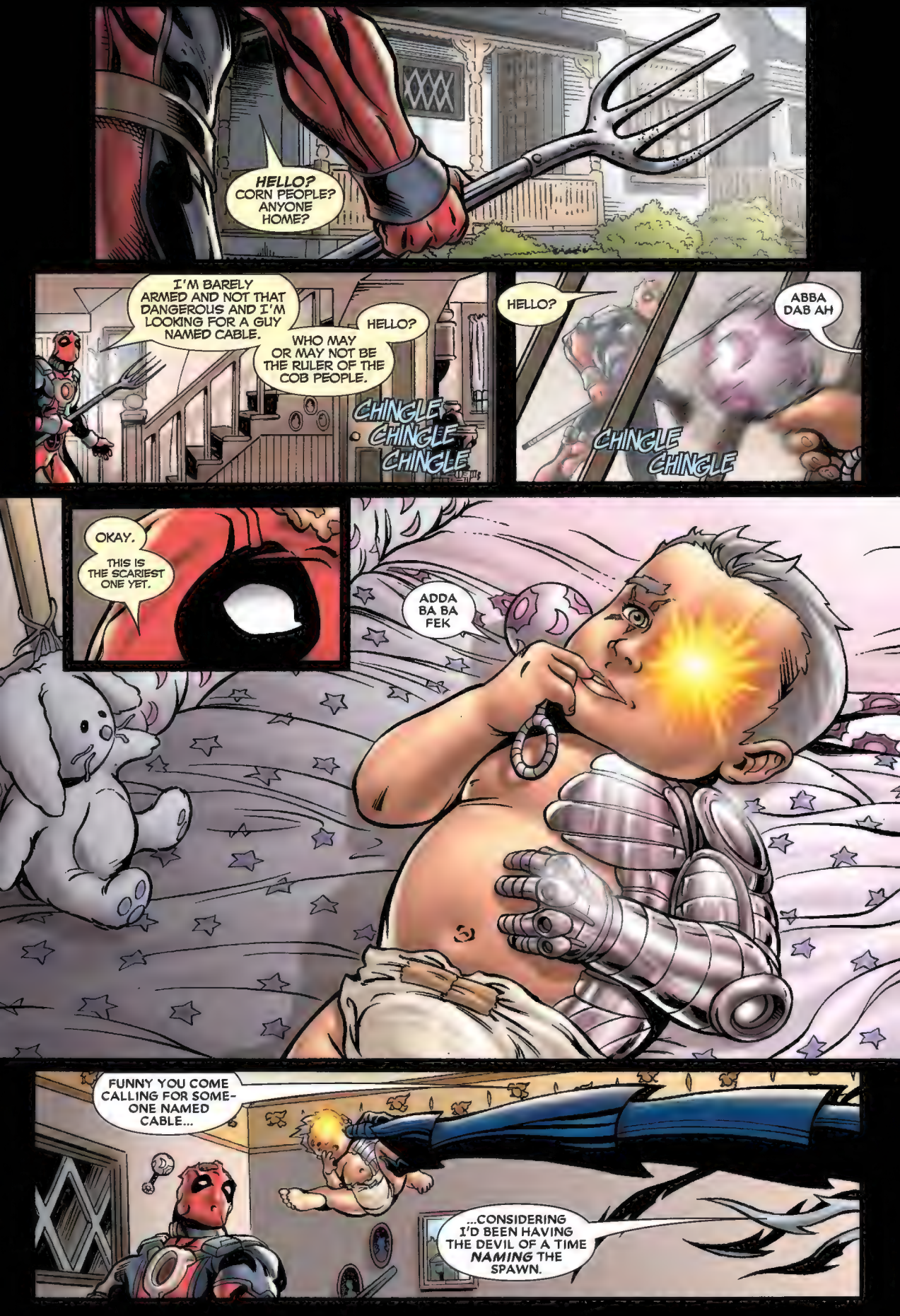

Why am I here? What are you--?
Because I wanted you to know. I wanted you to see.
I want *someone* to know.
I know you don't believe me, I know you think I'm a bipolar schizo! But that's OK.
You don't have to *believe* me, you just have to *report* it.
Even if you report I'm a whacko. That's okay too.
The thing is--the more I think about why I was brought back to life by that dingy Gypsy, the more I think she wants *me* to put her out of her misery.
She wants me to find her and stop this.
Why on earth would she bring me back like this?
So you know what? I'm going to.
Tomorrow you're going to hear that someone shot a wooden arrow right into Magneto's big fat head and no one's going to know why...
...but *you* will.
I'm going to go right to that damn Genosha island and I'm going to put that entire family down.
I *am* going to put her out of her misery.
Return the favor.
I don't have the power to put the world back the way it was and I don't even know if it *can* be put back...
...but I damn well can kick the guy's ass who did it.

What's he going to do... kill me?

The End

HOUSE OF M PROLOGUE PAGES FROM *CABLE & DEADPOOL #16*




HELLO? CORN PEOPLE? ANYONE HOME?
I'M BARELY ARMED AND NOT THAT DANGEROUS AND I'M LOOKING FOR A GUY NAMED CABLE.
HELLO?
WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE THE RULER OF THE COB PEOPLE.
CHINGLE CHINGLE CHINGLE
HELLO?
ABBA DAB AH
CHINGLE CHINGLE
OKAY.
THIS IS THE SCARIEST ONE YET.
ADDA BA BA FEK
FUNNY YOU COME CALLING FOR SOME-ONE NAMED CABLE...
...CONSIDERING I'D BEEN HAVING THE DEVIL OF A TIME *NAMING* THE SPAWN.

CABLE. WHAT AN APPROPRIATE NAME FOR THE PERSONIFICATION OF THE GENETIC POTENTIAL OF MUTANTS ALL OVER HIS WORLD.
I CREATED THE CHILD TO BE A LIFELINE--A LINK BETWEEN ALL THAT HAS BEEN--AND ALL THAT CAN BE.
MY MANNERS--FORGIVE ME, I DON'T GET MANY VISITORS.
WELL, WHAT WITH THE WHITE FACE AND ALL...
I AM... SINISTER.
AND I REALLY HAVE TO PEE NOW...

CABLE & DEADPOOL #17

The New Avengers and the Astonishing X-Men met to discuss the fate of Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch—the daughter of the powerful mutant terrorist Magneto. After losing control of her reality-altering powers and suffering a total nervous breakdown, Wanda unleashed chaos upon the Avengers, killing and injuring many of their number. Magneto intervened and took his daughter to the devastated island-nation of Genosha, where Charles Xavier—Professor X, the founder of the X-Men—was to help her recover. Xavier failed, and now it is up to Wanda's friends and teammates to decide whether she will live or die. But Magneto, Wanda, and her brother Pietro disappear...

Then the world burns to white. Reality as we knew it is gone...

...to be replaced by a society in which humans are the oppressed minority and mutants run the culture, ruling over all existing countries, religions, and politics. A kingdom united under the House of M.

HOUSE OF M

CABLE & DEADPOOL

ENEMA OF THE STATE

PART THREE: "HOUSE OF MMMMM"

I AM DEATH! I AM A HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE! ONCE, I WAS WARREN WORTHINGTON, THE WINGED-MUTANT CALLED ARCHANGEL!
ANY AND ALL BE FOREWARNED--THIS IS THE AGE OF APOCALYPSE!
A VENOMOUS POX ON THIS PAGE! I REGURGITATE BOTULISM AND BILE ON THIS PAGE!
NO ONE CARES, YA PANSY! YA DON'T EVEN APPEAR IN THIS ISSUE ANYWAYS. THIS IS JUST A RECAP PAGE.
GEEZ... WILLYA LET ME--OKAY? WE'RE FROM AN ALTERNATE EARTH--DIF'RENT VERSIONS OF CHARACTERS MOST OF YOU KNOW--HE'S ARCHANGEL AN' HE'S SPIDER-MAN--AND I'M HERCULES.
YOU ARE NOT! YOU WERE THE BLOB!
OKAY, WHATEVER. ANYWAYS, ON OUR WORLD, THE MUTANT MONSTER CALLED APOCALYPSE HAD BASICALLY FRICASSEED THE ENTIRE PLANET. WE'RE HIS MUSCLE.
THIS GUY NAMED DEADPOOL, HE'S A MERC WITH A MOUTH, CAME FROM HIS EARTH TO OURS LOOKING FOR HIS BUDDY, CABLE--BIG GUY, WHITE HAIR, GLOWING EYE, TECHNO-ORGANIC ARM AN' STUFF.
WHO WAS REVEALED ON OUR WORLD TO BE THE HORSEMAN, WAR.
GLORY TO APOCALYPSE!
YOU'RE ALMOST GETTIN' THE HANG OF IT, WINGS. ANYWAYS, SINCE OUR WORLD'S CABLE WASN'T HIS CABLE, DEADPOOL USED HIS TELEPORTING ABILITY COMBINED WITH SOME FUNKY INTERGALACTIC HARNESS THINGIE TO LEAVE OUR WORLD AN' ESCAPE TO ANOTHER ALTERNATE EARTH.
DON'T FORGET ABOUT SIRYN AND CANNON-BALLS.
PRETTY SURE SIRYN HAS AN "S."
AN' HE BOUNCED TO SEVERAL OTHER ALTERNATE EARTHS IN HIS SEARCH, FINDING DIFFERENT VARIATIONS OF CABLE ON EACH ONE.
NO "S," I DON'T THINK.
NEVER MIND--ANYWAYS, DEADPOOL'S GOT TWO HANDLERS KEEPIN' AN EYE ON HIM. SIRYN AND CANNONBALL, MUTANTS WHO WERE PART OF THE X-FORCE TEAM CABLE USED TO LEAD.
--AN' INSIDE THE FARM HE FOUND A BABY...WITH WHITE HAIR, A GLOWIN' EYE AN' A TECHNO-ORGANIC ARM!
THEY LAG ABOUT THREE MINUTES BEHIND EACH OF HIS JUMPS. SO, AFTER DEADPOOL LEFT THE LAST WORLD, HE ENDED UP ON WHAT HE THINKS IS ANOTHER ALTERNATE WORLD. NOW, HE'S ON A NICE NEBRASKA FARM--
CABLE IS A BABY, AND HIS NANNY IS...

SINISTER?

MR. SINISTER?!!

I HEARD OF YOU! MY GOD, YOU'RE AN INHUMAN MONSTER! OVER A HUNDRED YEARS OLD WITH COMPLETE CONTROL OVER YOUR CELLULAR STRUCTURE!

YOU'RE A MAD SCIENTIST! A GENETIC MANIPULATOR ALWAYS LOOKING TO PRUNE AND NURTURE THE MUTANT FAMILY TREE SO AS TO MAXIMIZE THE BLOOM OF MUTANT POTENTIAL AND USE THAT TO CONQUER THE WORLD!

WHY AM I SHOUTING?

I HAVE NO IDEA...

OKAY, SO, NATE'S A BABY AND A NUTCASE IS HIS GUARDIAN. WHO CARES, RIGHT? ONCE SIRYN AN' THE FARMBOY SHOW UP, I'M OUTTA HERE.

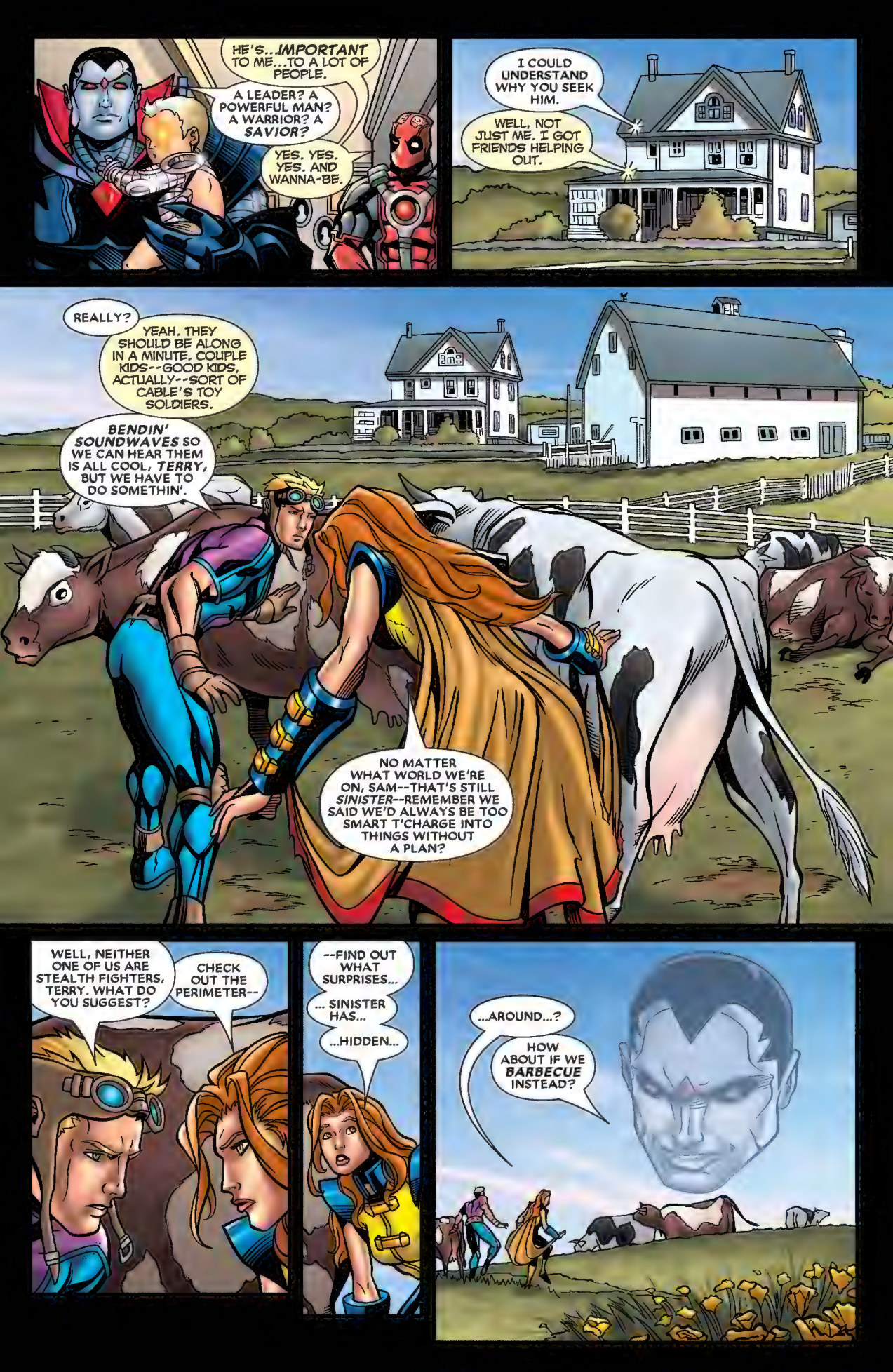
`CEPT THAT LITTLE TYKE SURE IS CUTE...

...BUT I WILL HAVE YOU KNOW--

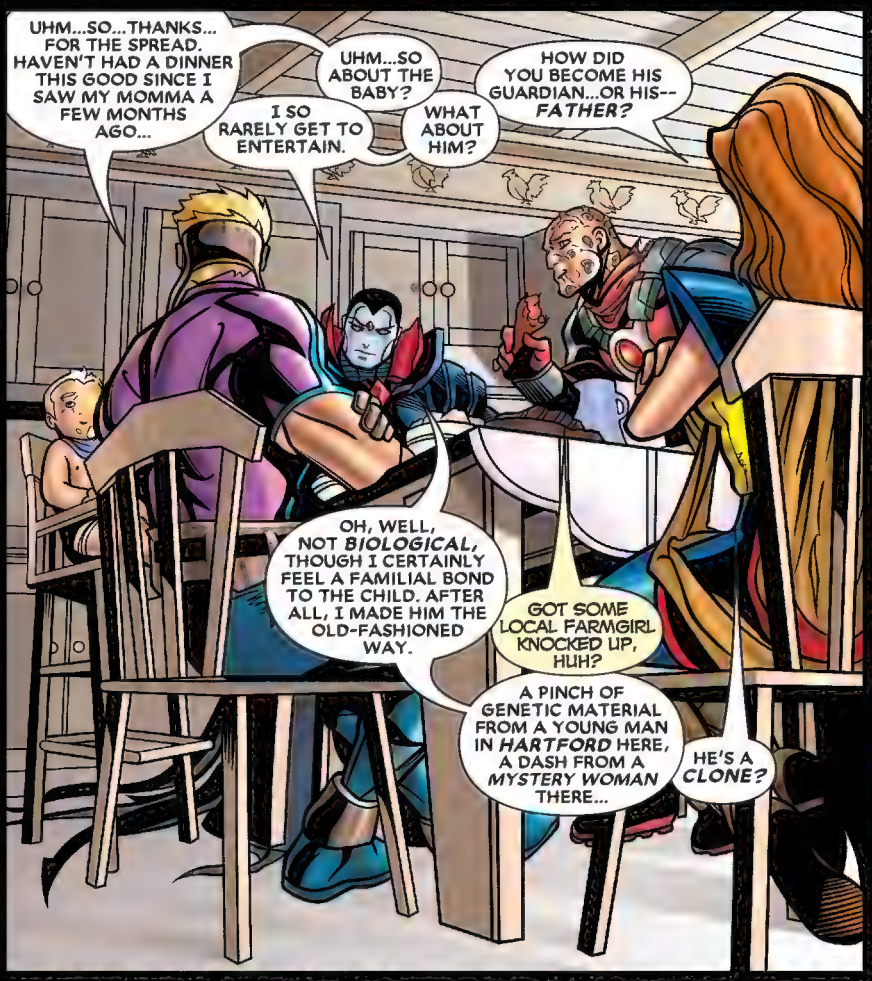
--I AM NONE OF THOSE THINGS YOU SAID! WELL, EXCEPT FOR THE "COMPLETE CONTROL OVER MY CELLULAR STRUCTURE" PART...
THIS GUY CAN MAKE HIS BODY DO ANYTHING. NOTE TO SELF: INTRODUCE CELLULAR STRUCTURE OF MR. SINISTER TO OLSEN TWINS.
AAHK--I'M PRETTY SURE I'LL BE NEEDING THAT ESOPHAGUS.
UHM...IS THAT DAZZLER ON TV?
THAT IS Alison!
EVERYONE KNOWS WHO ALISON BLAIRE IS. TALK SHOW, MAGAZINES, BOOKS, MOVIES.
TO NOT KNOW HER, YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE A HERMIT, OR AN IDIOT...
WELL, I AM AN IDIOT...
THE NAME YOU USED EARLIER... YOU CALLED THIS BABY... CABLE?
WELL, ACTUALLY HIS NAME IS NATHAN.
WHAT IS HIS SURNAME?
THAT GETS A BIT HYPHENATED. HEY, LISTEN, BY ANY CHANCE, CAN I USE YOUR BATH-ROOM?
I MEAN, I HAVEN'T GONE IN LIKE FOUR DAYS AND--
DOWN THE HALL, FIRST DOOR ON YOUR RIGHT.
YOU'RE THE BEST MAD SCIENTIST EVER!

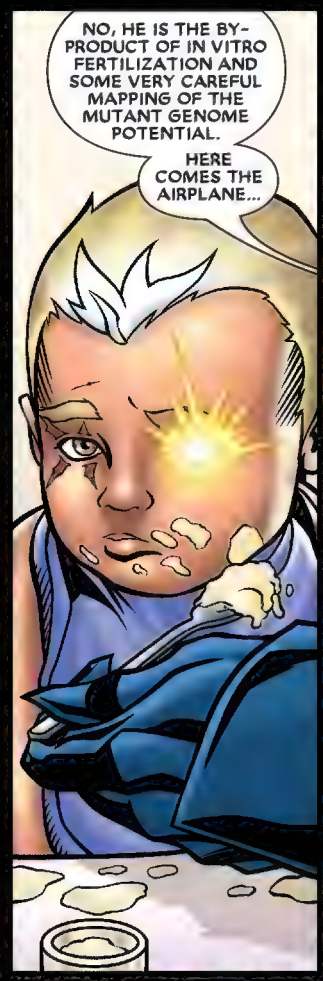
SO YOUR NAME IS--?
DEADPOOL.
AND YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THIS THIS... CABLE?
WHEN WE'RE NOT TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER, WE'RE BEST OF BUDS. SORT OF.
CABLE DISAPPEARED FIGHTING SOMETHING OR OTHER CALLED THE SKORNN.
SCORN?
PRETTY SURE IT'S WITH A K AND TWO N'S.
WHY?
SOME THINGS YOU JUST DON'T QUESTION.
FSHSHSHSH
AAH.
FSHSHSHSH
FSHSHSHSH
FSHSHSHSH
PLIP PLIP PLIP
YES. SO...YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR--
FSHSHSHSH
FSHSHSHSH

FSHSHSHSH
FSHSHSHSH
PLIP PLIP PLIP
YES. WELL. YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR CABLE...?
YEAH. WE'RE SORT OF LINKED WHEN WE TELEPORT. FORGE FIGURED THAT MIGHT LEAD ME TO WHEREVER CABLE REALLY WAS...
FORGE, YOU SAY? THE INTUITIVE ENGINEER?
YEAH. ANYWAY, HE BUILT THIS FUNKY HARNESS FOR WHEN--
WASH YOUR HANDS.
--I TELEPORT. SO I'VE FOUND ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT CABLES ON A BUNCH OF ALTERNATE WORLDS--
--AN' IT'S ALMOST LIKE EACH ONE IS A PIECE OF THE WHOLE--BUT I HAVEN'T FOUND THE REAL THING--OR MY REAL THING.
GLURRGLURRGLURR
I MEANT CABLE. I GOT NO PROBLEM FINDING MY REAL THING, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
...
AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO FIND THIS CABLE?
DON'T ASK THE QUESTION IF YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWER...

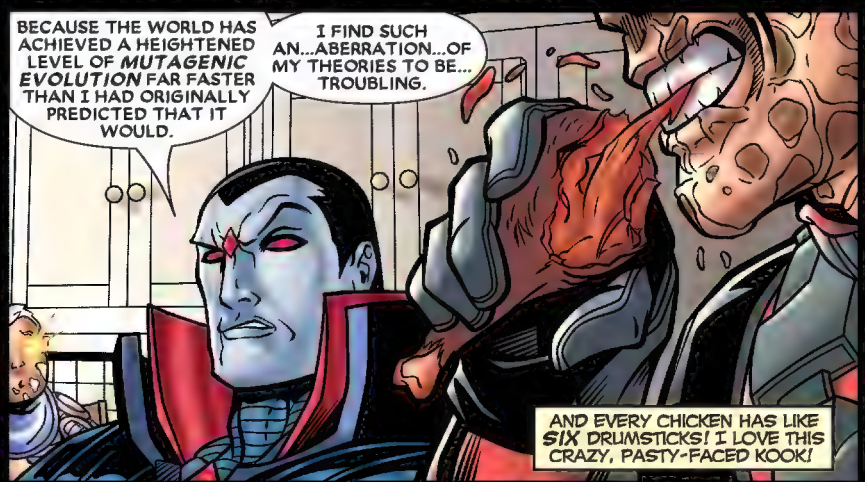

HE'S...IMPORTANT TO ME...TO A LOT OF PEOPLE.
A LEADER? A POWERFUL MAN? A WARRIOR? A SAVIOR?
YES. YES. YES. AND WANNA-BE.
I COULD UNDERSTAND WHY YOU SEEK HIM.
WELL, NOT JUST ME. I GOT FRIENDS HELPING OUT.
REALLY?
YEAH. THEY SHOULD BE ALONG IN A MINUTE. COUPLE KIDS--GOOD KIDS, ACTUALLY--SORT OF CABLE'S TOY SOLDIERS.
BENDIN' SOUNDWAVES SO WE CAN HEAR THEM IS ALL COOL, TERRY, BUT WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHIN'.
NO MATTER WHAT WORLD WE'RE ON, SAM--THAT'S STILL SINISTER--REMEMBER WE SAID WE'D ALWAYS BE TOO SMART T'CHARGE INTO THINGS WITHOUT A PLAN?
WELL, NEITHER ONE OF US ARE STEALTH FIGHTERS, TERRY. WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
CHECK OUT THE PERIMETER--
--FIND OUT WHAT SURPRISES...
... SINISTER HAS...
...HIDDEN...
...AROUND...?
HOW ABOUT IF WE BARBECUE INSTEAD?

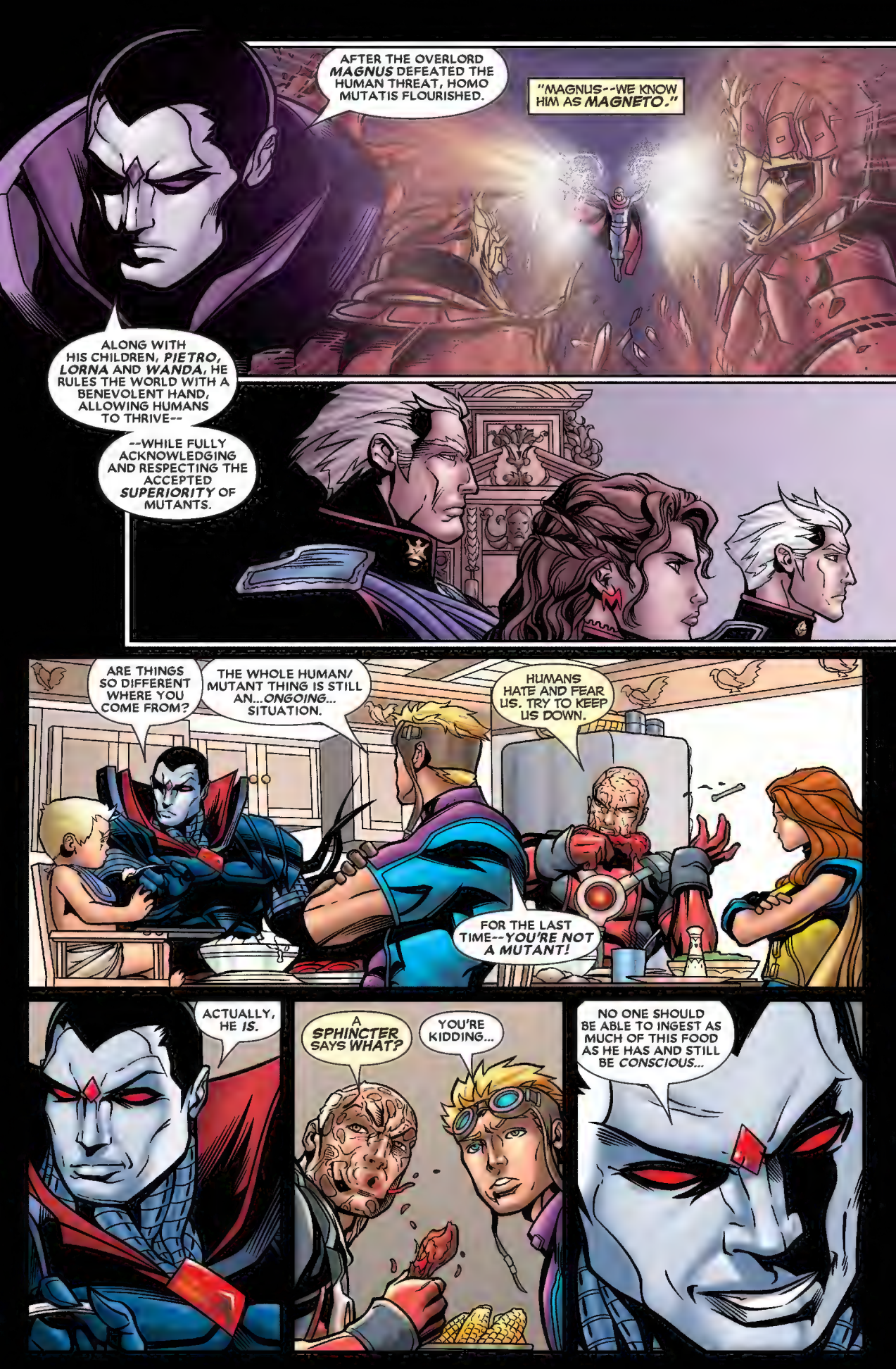
MAN, GENETICALLY MUTATED CHICKEN TOTALLY ROCKS!
NO MATTER WHAT WORLD YOU'RE ON, THE MIDWEST SURE CAN PULL OFF BARBECUE!

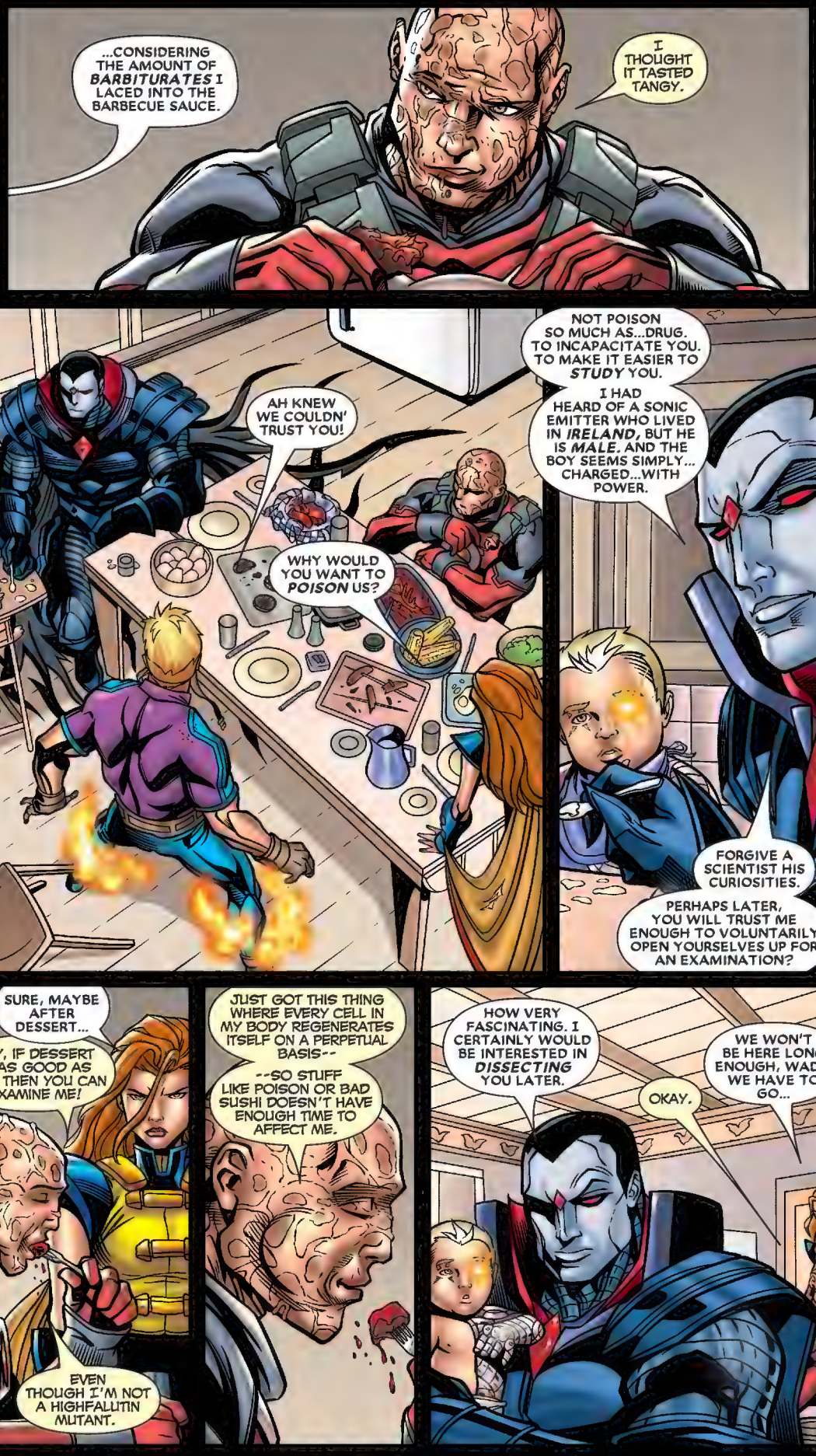

UHM...SO...THANKS... FOR THE SPREAD. HAVEN'T HAD A DINNER THIS GOOD SINCE I SAW MY MOMMA A FEW MONTHS AGO...
I SO RARELY GET TO ENTERTAIN.
UHM...SO ABOUT THE BABY?
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
HOW DID YOU BECOME HIS GUARDIAN...OR HIS-- FATHER?
OH, WELL, NOT BIOLOGICAL, THOUGH I CERTAINLY FEEL A FAMILIAL BOND TO THE CHILD. AFTER ALL, I MADE HIM THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
GOT SOME LOCAL FARMGIRL KNOCKED UP, HUH?
A PINCH OF GENETIC MATERIAL FROM A YOUNG MAN IN HARTFORD HERE, A DASH FROM A MYSTERY WOMAN THERE...
HE'S A CLONE?


NO, HE IS THE BY-PRODUCT OF IN VITRO FERTILIZATION AND SOME VERY CAREFUL MAPPING OF THE MUTANT GENOME POTENTIAL.
HERE COMES THE AIRPLANE...

WHY?


BECAUSE THE WORLD HAS ACHIEVED A HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF MUTAGENIC EVOLUTION FAR FASTER THAN I HAD ORIGINALLY PREDICTED THAT IT WOULD.
I FIND SUCH AN...ABERRATION...OF MY THEORIES TO BE... TROUBLING.
AND EVERY CHICKEN HAS LIKE SIX DRUMSTICKS! I LOVE THIS CRAZY, PASTY-FACED KOOK!


AFTER THE OVERLORD MAGNUS DEFEATED THE HUMAN THREAT, HOMO MUTATIS FLOURISHED.
"MAGNUS--WE KNOW HIM AS MAGNETO."
ALONG WITH HIS CHILDREN, PIETRO, LORNA AND WANDA, HE RULES THE WORLD WITH A BENEVOLENT HAND, ALLOWING HUMANS TO THRIVE--
--WHILE FULLY ACKNOWLEDGING AND RESPECTING THE ACCEPTED SUPERIORITY OF MUTANTS.
ARE THINGS SO DIFFERENT WHERE YOU COME FROM?
THE WHOLE HUMAN/ MUTANT THING IS STILL AN...ONGOING... SITUATION.
HUMANS HATE AND FEAR US. TRY TO KEEP US DOWN.
FOR THE LAST TIME--YOU'RE NOT A MUTANT!
ACTUALLY, HE IS.
A SPHINCTER SAYS WHAT?
YOU'RE KIDDING...
NO ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO INGEST AS MUCH OF THIS FOOD AS HE HAS AND STILL BE CONSCIOUS...


...CONSIDERING THE AMOUNT OF *BARBITURATES* I LACED INTO THE BARBECUE SAUCE.
I THOUGHT IT TASTED TANGY.
AH KNEW WE COULDN' TRUST YOU!
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO *POISON* US?
NOT POISON SO MUCH AS...DRUG. TO INCAPACITATE YOU. TO MAKE IT EASIER TO *STUDY* YOU.
I HAD HEARD OF A SONIC EMITTER WHO LIVED IN *IRELAND*, BUT HE IS *MALE*. AND THE BOY SEEMS SIMPLY... CHARGED...WITH POWER.
FORGIVE A SCIENTIST HIS CURIOSITIES.
PERHAPS LATER, YOU WILL TRUST ME ENOUGH TO VOLUNTARILY OPEN YOURSELVES UP FOR AN EXAMINATION?
SURE, MAYBE AFTER DESSERT...
HEY, IF DESSERT IS AS GOOD AS THIS, THEN YOU CAN EXAMINE ME!
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT A HIGHFALUTIN MUTANT.
JUST GOT THIS THING WHERE EVERY CELL IN MY BODY REGENERATES ITSELF ON A PERPETUAL BASIS--
--SO STUFF LIKE POISON OR BAD SUSHI DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO AFFECT ME.
HOW VERY FASCINATING. I CERTAINLY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN *DISSECTING* YOU LATER.
OKAY.
WE WON'T BE HERE LONG ENOUGH, WADE. WE HAVE TO GO...

PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE SO SOON. THERE IS MUCH I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN.
DOWNSTAIRS IS THE ENTRANCE TO MY LABORATORY. THERE ARE THINGS I THINK YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SEEING.
HEY, HE SAID LA-BOH-RAH-TORY JUST LIKE MARTY FELDMAN IN--
YOU IDIOT!
SHSH! WAIT--
THERE. YOU CAN TALK NOW WITHOUT HIM HEARING YOU.
OKAY, FIRST OF ALL, MASON-DIXON, YOU HIT ME AGAIN AND YOUR HAND WILL BE PERMANENTLY TICKLING YOUR COLON.
SECOND OF ALL--NEAT TRICK WITH THE SOUND WAVES THERE, RED.
THIRD--WE AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE UNTIL I FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET BABY CABLE AWAY FROM THIS LURCH WANNABE.
NOW AH'M CONFUSED.
I'LL USE SIMPLE WORDS, FARMBOY: I'M NOT LEAVING A BABY NATE WITH THE MUTIE MENGELE HERE.
OR WAS MENGELE TOO OBSCURE A REF FOR YOU IPOD GENERATION KIDS?
NO, AH GOT IT.
SO I'LL DISTRACT HIM WHILE YOU TWO FIGURE OUT WHO COULD TAKE CARE OF THE BABY.
CUT THE SOUND SHIELD, RED...
--TUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF THE SPECIES...

I HAVE SPENT A LIFETIME--SEVERAL LIFETIMES, ACTUALLY--TRYING TO UNDERSTAND AND ***PREDICT*** HOW GENETICS WILL SHAPE MANKIND.

FROM HERE, I CAN ACCESS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CAREFULLY STORED ***DNA SAMPLES,*** WHILE USING MY ***TESSERACT CONDUITS*** FOR INSTANTANEOUS TRANSPORT TO ANYWHERE ON THE PLANET.

SO--WHAT WOULD YOU CARE TO SEE?

WESTCHESTER. YEAH...AH'D BE CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT THAT'S LIKE.

YOU WANNA THINK HE'S SINCERE. SURE. SYRUPY SMOOTH VOICE LACED WITH RAZOR BLADES.

POLITE AND GIVING YOU THE BEST CORN BREAD YOU'VE EVER HAD ONE MINUTE, USING IT TO DRUG YOU THE NEXT.

AN' NONE OF THAT EVEN BUGS ME AS MUCH...

...AS MUCH AS SEEIN' WHAT HE IS ALL ABOUT--DOORWAYS TO EVERY-WHERE, BEAKERS, VIALS, PETRI DISHES, JIGGLING BOWLS OF JELLO--

--OKAY, I THINK THAT REALLY IS A BOWL OF JELLO--

--ALL OF IT PUT TOGETHER ADDS UP TO ONE THING: ***COUNTLESS POSSIBILITIES.***

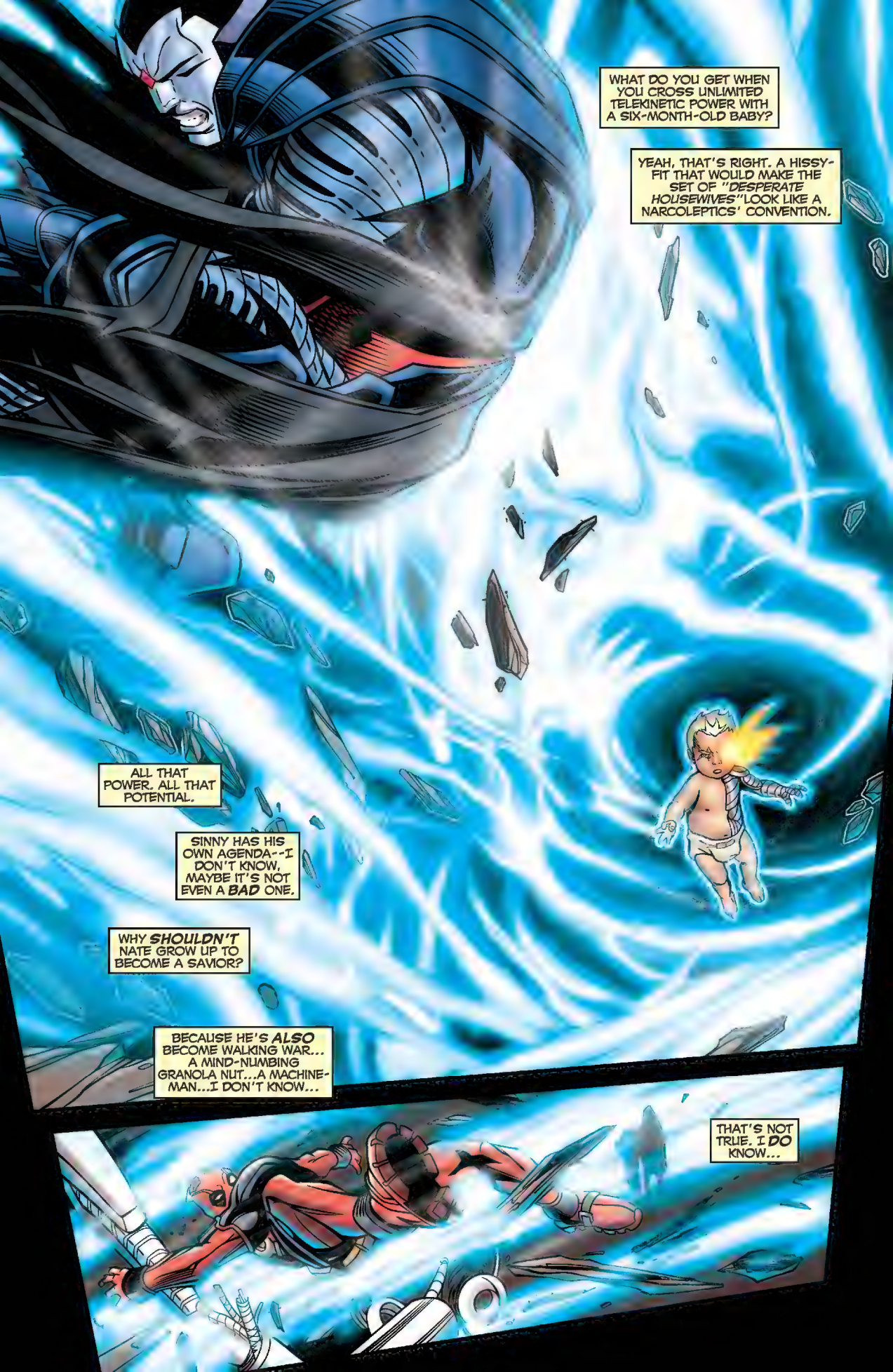
AN' I LOOK AT BABY NATE, THINK OF WHAT HIS LIFE WAS LIKE ON ALL THOSE OTHER WORLDS--AN' I WONDER, ***WHAT COULD HE BE HERE?***

*WHAT **SHOULD** HE BE HERE--OR ANYWHERE, FOR THAT MATTER?*

THIS WILL BRING YOU TO WESTCHESTER. GETTING BACK MIGHT BE MORE DIFFICULT.
WADE--
IF YOU GET IN TROUBLE, CALL ME. OTHERWISE, WHEN I DECIDE TO 'PORT OUT OF HERE, YOU'LL BE THREE MINUTES BEHIND.
YOUR CELL PHONE CARRIER WORKS HERE?
YO, FARMBOY, JOKES ARE MY JOB.
SO...
SO.
YOU MEAN TO TAKE THE CHILD FROM ME.
GOT ANY GOOD REASONS WHY I SHOULDN'T?
WELL, TO BEGIN WITH, YOU HAVE NO WEAPONS.
YEAH, BUT I'VE SEEN EVERY JACKIE CHAN MOVIE AND HI-KARATE COMMERCIAL EVER MADE!
AND SECOND OF ALL...I MEAN THE CHILD NO HARM.
INDEED, I FULLY EXPECT HE WILL ONE DAY BECOME THE HEART, SOUL AND SAVIOR OF THIS ENTIRE PLANET!
WITH YOU AS HIS FATHER?

WITH WORLD HISTORY AS HIS TUTOR!
THE THOUGHTS AND ASPIRATIONS, FEARS AND HOPES OF EVERY LIVING BEING ON EARTH AS HIS MORAL GUIDE!
THE POWER TO MOLD ATOMS AS HIS CLAY!
IN THIRTY YEARS, THIS WORLD WILL RUPTURE ITSELF!
IF THE SPAWN OF MAGNUS INHERIT CONTROL, IT IS AN INEVITABILITY THAT SOMEONE WILL SEEK TO OVERTHROW THEM--
--AND IF HOMO SAPIENS HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY PRUNED FROM THE GENETIC TREE--
--THEY WILL FOMENT DESPERATE TERRORIST ACTS THAT WOULD CREATE A CONFLAGRATION THAT WILL CONSUME THIS PLANET!
AND YOU PLANNED TO WAIT FOR NATE TO GROW UP TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?
I HAD...
VWWWWHRRRRR
...BUT YOUR PRESENCE HAS ALLOWED ME TO... ACCELERATE MY PLANS.
OW!

HEY, I HAVEN'T HAD DESSERT YET!
YOUR DNA PROVIDES THE TEMPLATE FOR A RAPID ACCELERATION OF THE CHILD'S ENTIRE CELLULAR STRUCTURE.
PROPERLY INTRODUCED INTO HIS SYSTEM, HE CAN BE AN ADULT IN A MATTER OF DAYS.
NO--WAIT-- DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY STD'S I COULD HAVE?
WAAAAH!
I HAVE BEEN MARGINALIZED. I SHOULD HAVE LED THE WAY, I THINK...
...PULLED BACK THE CURTAINS OF EVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL AND PERFORMED ACROSS A STAGE OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE!
OKAY, NOW YOU'RE JUST MONO-LOGUING.
UHM...BY ANY CHANCE, HAS BABY NATE SHOWN ANY... MUTANT ABILITIES... BEFORE--?
NO... WHY?
JUST CURIOUS...


WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS UNLIMITED TELEKINETIC POWER WITH A SIX-MONTH-OLD BABY?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. A HISSY-FIT THAT WOULD MAKE THE SET OF "DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES" LOOK LIKE A NARCOLEPTICS' CONVENTION.
ALL THAT POWER. ALL THAT POTENTIAL.
SINNY HAS HIS OWN AGENDA--I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE IT'S NOT EVEN A BAD ONE.
WHY SHOULDN'T NATE GROW UP TO BECOME A SAVIOR?
BECAUSE HE'S ALSO BECOME WALKING WAR... A MIND-NUMBING GRANOLA NUT...A MACHINE-MAN...I DON'T KNOW...
THAT'S NOT TRUE. I DO KNOW...

I JUST HOPE TERRY AN' HICK-A-BILLY AIN'T ENJOYIN' THEMSELVES TOO MUCH...
SAM--?
I SEE IT, TERRY--LORD HELP US...I SEE IT...
ALREADY THE GENETIC REGENERATION IS TAKING EFFECT!
IMAGINE, A CHILD WITH SO MUCH POWER AND POTENTIAL--HOW HE COULD BE MOLDED--PREPARED FOR--
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO CRUSH HIS HOPES AND DREAMS AND FORCE HIM TO DO WHAT YOU WANT HIM TO DO UNLESS YOU'RE HIS REAL PARENT!
HE NEEDS SOMEONE WHO'LL LOVE HIM AND TEACH HIM HOW TO SHOOT A GUN AND ONLY SHOW HIM THE GOOD PORN!

SOMEONE LIKE ME!
BODYSLIDE BY TWO!
NO! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT!
OKAY, HOW COME I'M NOT FADING AWAY HERE...
GUSHKT!
THAT CHILD WAS DESIGNED TO SERVE AS THE WELL-SPRING FOR ALL THE POWER HOMO MUTATIS COULD EVER HOPE TO ACHIEVE!
IN THE WRONG HANDS, HE COULD BECOME A MONSTER--OR WORSE--INSIGNIFICANT!
YEAH... HEAVEN FORBID HE GETS A CHANCE T'JUST GROW UP AS A NORMAL KID...
BODYSLIDE BY TWO!
NORMAL? WHAT IS NORMAL? IN A WORLD WHERE MUTANTS OUT-NUMBER HUMANS?
WHERE NORMAL BENDS STEEL IN BARE HANDS...
BODYSLIDE BY TWO!
...
HELLOOO--?
I SHOULD BE ON THE NEXT WORLD BY NOW...
PERHAPS THE DRUGS I INTRODUCED INTO YOUR SYSTEM ARE HAVING AN EFFECT AFTER ALL...?
NOW LET US SEE IF YOUR HEALING ABILITIES CAN WITHSTAND BEING TORN INTO SEVERAL PIECES...
NO--SON OF A--YOU ARE NOT GETTING THIS KID...
...BODYSLIDE BY TWO, I SAID!
WHY AM I STILL HERE?

HHHHMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
NOOO!
STOP! WE NEED A SAVIOR!
HEY, I'M FINALLY FADING OUT? FEELS DIFFERENT. MAYBE 'CAUSE I GOT THE KID IN TOW?

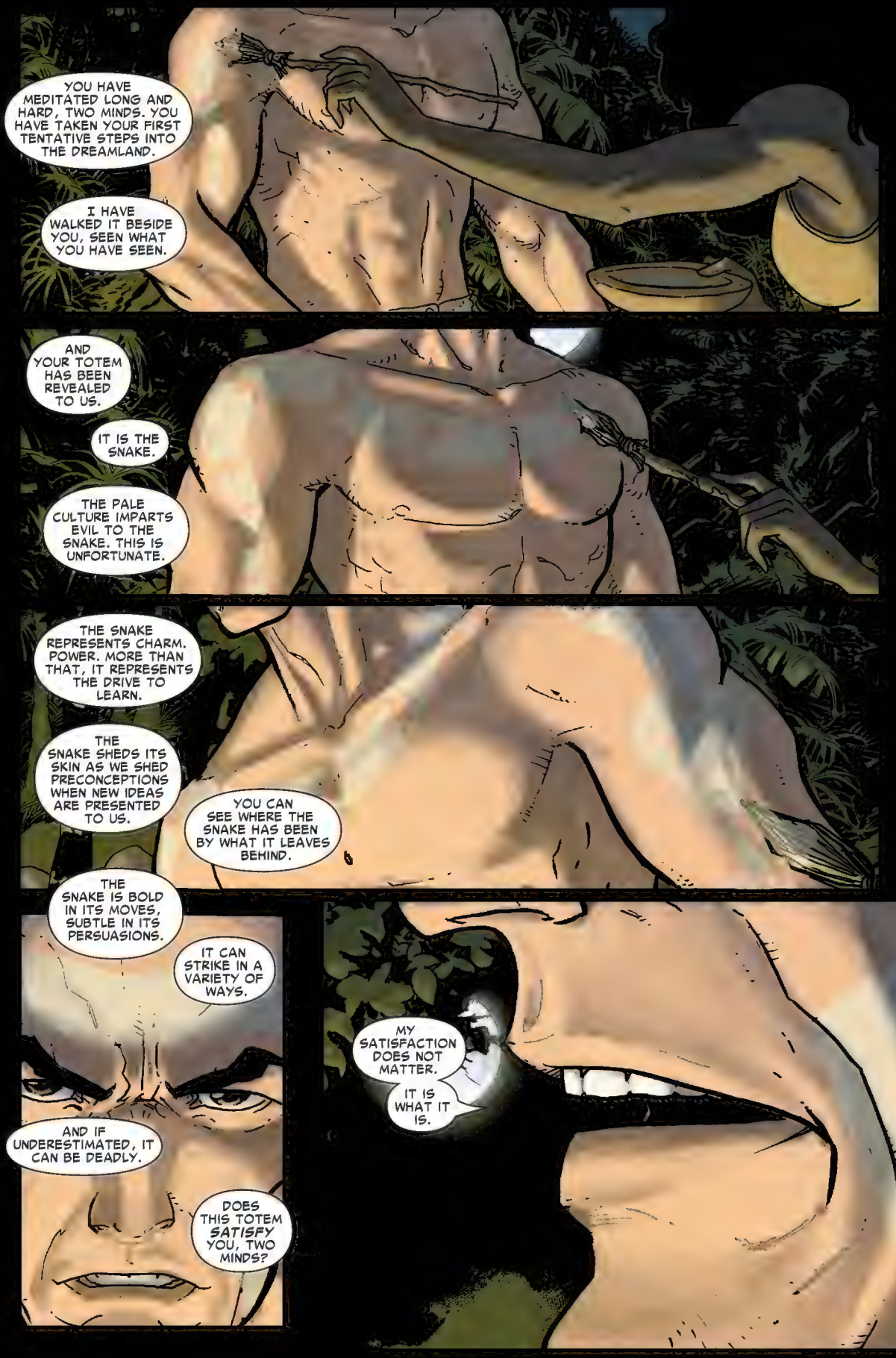
HE WOULD HAVE HEALED A WORLD...WHAT WILL HE BECOME...WHAT WILL BECOME--

--OF US...?

INCREDIBLE HULK #83

Bruce Banner has a secret side, a personality that hides behind his unassuming exterior. In times of stress and rage he transforms into something more than human: he becomes a hulking monster capable of incredible mayhem and destruction, putting those close to him in the path of certain harm.

After years of emotional turmoil and self-exile, he seeks to calm the fierce dichotomy of his life and repress his inner ferocity so that he may—once again—live not as a monster, but simply a man...in the warm embrace of peace.


YOU HAVE MEDITATED LONG AND HARD, TWO MINDS. YOU HAVE TAKEN YOUR FIRST TENTATIVE STEPS INTO THE DREAMLAND.
I HAVE WALKED IT BESIDE YOU, SEEN WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN.
AND YOUR TOTEM HAS BEEN REVEALED TO US.
IT IS THE SNAKE.
THE PALE CULTURE IMPARTS EVIL TO THE SNAKE. THIS IS UNFORTUNATE.
THE SNAKE REPRESENTS CHARM. POWER. MORE THAN THAT, IT REPRESENTS THE DRIVE TO LEARN.
THE SNAKE SHEDS ITS SKIN AS WE SHED PRECONCEPTIONS WHEN NEW IDEAS ARE PRESENTED TO US.
YOU CAN SEE WHERE THE SNAKE HAS BEEN BY WHAT IT LEAVES BEHIND.
THE SNAKE IS BOLD IN ITS MOVES, SUBTLE IN ITS PERSUASIONS.
IT CAN STRIKE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.
AND IF UNDERESTIMATED, IT CAN BE DEADLY.
DOES THIS TOTEM SATISFY YOU, TWO MINDS?
MY SATISFACTION DOES NOT MATTER.
IT IS WHAT IT IS.

TERRA INCOGNITA
PART 1
YOU HAVE LEARNED MUCH AND YOU HAVE LEARNED WELL.
YOU ARE ON THE PATH TO BECOMING ONE OF THE TRUE PEOPLE. CONTINUE ON THE PATH, AND--

WHAT IS IT, OLD MAN?
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
DO NOT LISTEN WITH YOUR EARS. LISTEN WITH YOUR HEART.
LISTEN TO THE INTRUDERS WHO COME.
MY GOD.
YES.
SO MANY.
YES.

"BUT THE ONES WHO ARE ALREADY HERE...ARE NOT OUR CONCERN.
"THEY FLEE OPPRESSION. THE TRUE PEOPLE HAVE KNOWN OPPRESSION AND HAVE FLED IT AS WELL, SO WE CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH THEIR NEED.
"HOWEVER, THEY KNOW NOT THAT THEIR OPPRESSORS ARE COMING. BUT THEY ARE.
"AND IT WILL NOT GO WELL."
OVERALL, I THINK IT'S GOING PRETTY WELL, MOM.
PEOPLE ARE TIRED AND HOT AND EXHAUSTED...BUT THEY'RE HERE. PEOPLE HAVE COME HERE TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY FROM AS FAR AS *SYDNEY*.
IF THE MUTANT OPPRESSION CONTINUES, DEAR, THEY'LL BE COMING FROM MUCH FURTHER AWAY THAN THAT.
WHERE ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

IN THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA, JUST OFF BORROLOOLA.
I SWEAR, YOU JUST HAVE TO LOVE THE NAMES IN AUSTRALIA.
SO HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU ESTIMATE ARE THERE?
I'D MAKE IT THREE HUNDRED... MAYBE MORE.
AND THEY'RE ALL TELLING THE SAME STORY?
WITH SOME VARIATIONS, BUT YEAH, PRETTY MUCH, AND IT MATCHES UP WITH OUR INTEL.
IN OTHER COUNTRIES, HUMANS ARE SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS. DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, TREATED LIKE THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL. BUT THAT'S AS FAR AS IT GOES.
BUT THE MUTANT GOVERNMENT HERE IN AUSTRALIA IS ANOTHER DEAL ALTOGETHER.
ROUNDING PEOPLE UP?
YUP.
INTERNMENT CAMPS, OR WORSE? THE AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENT OF THE FINAL SOLUTION?
THE WHAT?

GOD SAVE US FROM AMERICAN SCHOOLS. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT YOU THERE TO BE EDUCATED.
"THE FINAL SOLUTION," DEAR. HITLER'S PLAN TO EXTERMINATE ALL THE JEWS.
OH. THAT.
YES, THAT.
WELL, HITLER DIDN'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH A.I.M. WE'RE DOING GOOD WORK HERE, MOTHER.
I THINK YOU WERE RIGHT WHEN YOU URGED US TO COME HERE. ANY WAY THAT WE CAN SHOW HUMANS THEY DON'T HAVE TO ROLL OVER IN THE FACE OF MUTANT OPPRESSION, IT'S SURE TO...
UH-OH.
WHAT "UH-OH?"
WHAT'S THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN EARTHQUAKE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY?
SLIGHT. MUCH MORE LIKELY IN THE WESTERN REGIONS. WHY?
IF WE'RE NOT HAVING AN EARTHQUAKE...
...THEN I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO GET COMPANY.
SCORPION! THEY'RE COMING!
I KNOW, ADAM.
I THOUGHT THEY WEREN'T GOING TO COME HERE INTO THE OUTBACK! THAT THEY'D BE SATISFIED WITH--
BULLIES AREN'T EVER SATISFIED, ADAM. NOT EVER.
THEY'LL KEEP ON COMING UNTIL YOU MAKE A STAND.
WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT HERE.
I SEE YOUR POINT.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT APPEARS MANY DO NOT.
THE HELL WITH THEM.
WEAPONS AT THE READY!
ADAM! FOR PITY'S SAKE, BE CAREFUL!
FATHER, WITH ALL RESPECT, THIS IS SO NOT THE TIME TO BE CAREFUL!
THIS IS THE TIME TO KICK BUTT AND TAKE NAMES!
YES, I'M SURE THEY'RE TELLING THEMSELVES THE SAME THING.
HALT! ALL OF YOU, HALT! BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR!
DON'T MAKE US COME IN THERE AFTER YOU!

WILL YOU DESPISE ME?
DESPISE YOU?
MY... OTHER MIND. YOU'VE NEVER ACTUALLY... SEEN IT.
IF IT...HE...IT... EMERGES...WILL YOU DESPISE ME, OLD MAN? THINK THE LESS OF ME?
YOU ARE ONE OF US NOW, TWO MINDS. ONE OF THE TRUE PEOPLE.
TO DESPISE YOU WOULD BE TO DESPISE OURSELVES.
YOU HAVE ALREADY OPENED YOURSELF TO US. YOU ARE TRUE.
THAT IS ALL THAT MATTERS. AND BESIDES...
THEY HAVE ENTERED ONE OF OUR SACRED PLACES.
THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE.
YOU'RE JUST MAKING IT HARDER ON YOURSELVES!
I COULD SAY THE SAME OF YOU.

YOU'RE IN A SACRED SITE OF THE TRUE PEOPLE TRIBE.
LEAVE NOW.
SIR...WE'RE UNDER STRICT ORDERS NOT TO ENGAGE ANY ABORIGINALS...
THIS GUY AIN'T ONE OF THE ABBIES. HE'S SOME GONE-NATIVE WANNABE.
"LEAVE NOW," TONTO? OR WHAT?
OH, YEAH.
YEAH, BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE SQUARING OFF AGAINST UNUS THE UNTOUCHABLE, THAT'S *REALLY* THE WAY TO GO, CHUCKING AN AUSSIE FRISBEE.
YOU'RE MAKING A *MISTAKE.*
I'VE GOT AN UNBEATABLE FORCEFIELD, SMART GUY, THAT YOU TOOK ON WITH A PIECE OF WOOD. AND YOU THINK I'M THE ONE WHO MADE A MISTAKE?

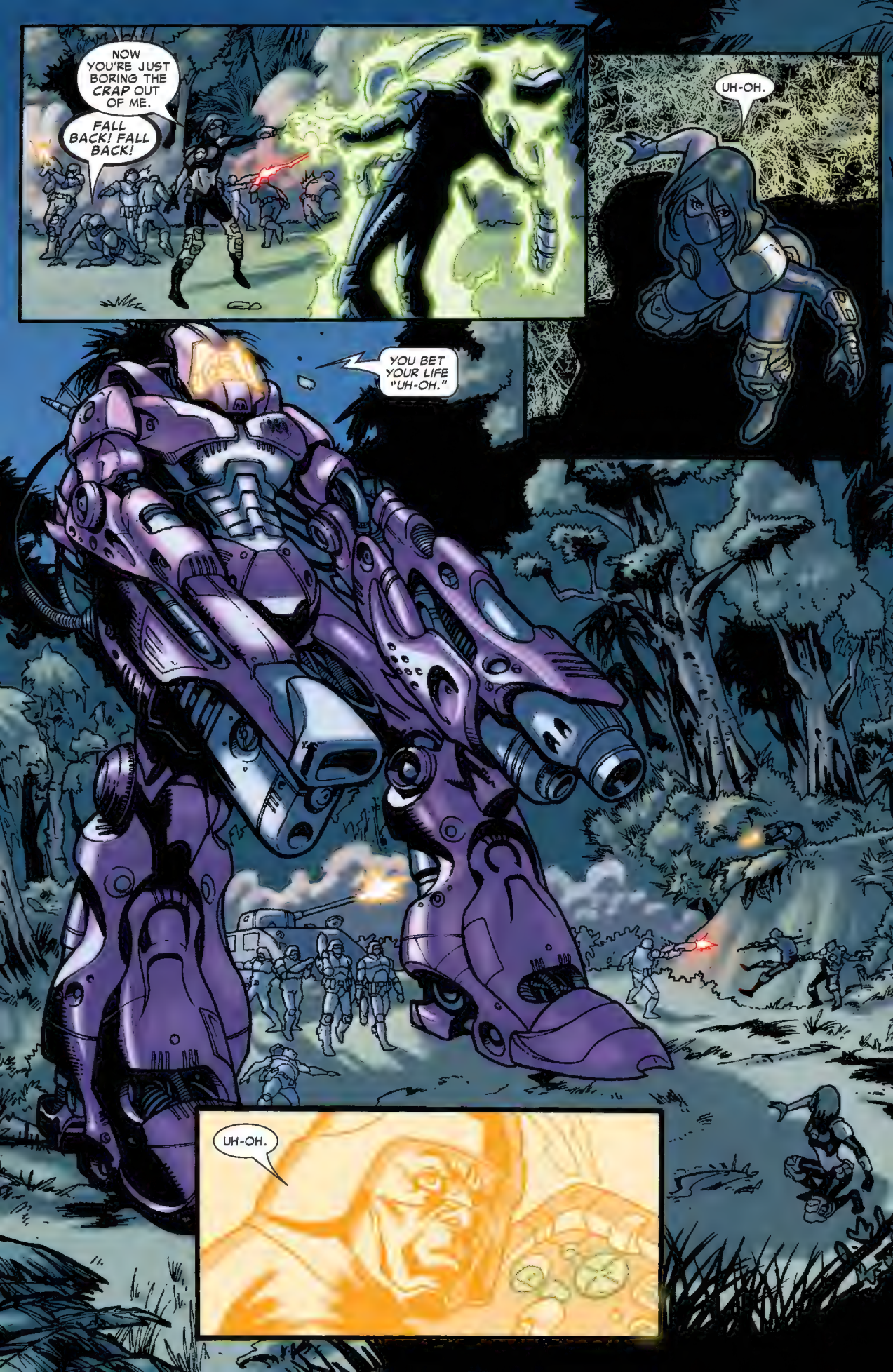
NOT MUCH OF A DEEP THINKER, ARE YOU?
HEH. GUESS HE DID WIND UP KINDA DEEP AT THAT.
WEIRD. HE LOOKED KINDA FAMILIAR.
WELL, GUESS IT DON'T MATTER MUCH NOW.

WHAT THE--?!
G'DAY.

NOW... LEAVE.
EEYYYARHH!
AAARRRGGHH!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN FLYING LIZARDS TO MAKE ME TURN TAIL, HULK!
NOTHING CAN PENETRATE MY FORCEFIELD! NOT EVEN YOU! YOU HEAR ME?
HEAR YA *FINE*.
NOW HEAR *THIS*.
THOOOM

ARRRHHHH!!!
KILL YOU... I'LL...
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.

YOU'RE HUMANS! HUMANS ATTACKING OTHER HUMANS, ON BEHALF OF MUTANTS!
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY TAKE THEIR SIDE?!
YOU DON'T GET TO JUDGE US, FREAK!
UNHHHH...
FIRST OF ALL, WHAT'D OTHER HUMANS EVER DO FOR ME, HUH?
HELL, IF ANY OF 'EM WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET OFFERED THIS GIG, THEY'D GRAB IT AND WE BOTH KNOW IT.
SO SAVE THE HOLIER-THAN-THOU STUFF! WAY I SEE IT, EITHER YOU'RE PART OF THE SNOWSTORM OR YOU GET BURIED.
Y'KNOW WHAT? AT FIRST YOU WERE REALLY ANGERING ME, WHAT WITH BEING A TRAITOR TO YOUR RACE AND ALL. BUT NOW...


NOW YOU'RE JUST BORING THE CRAP OUT OF ME.
FALL BACK! FALL BACK!
UH-OH.
YOU BET YOUR LIFE "UH-OH."
UH-OH.

MOM! ARE YOU SEEING THIS?
I'M SEEING IT!
I MEAN HIM! PAINTED UP LIKE AN ABORIGINE! ARE YOU--!
WE HAVE AERIAL CAMERAS OUT THERE, HONEY! I SEE HIM!
KOOM
WHO...
...ATTACKED...
...MY...
...PEOPLE?

RAAAAARRRR!!!

RAAAAARRRR!!!
I NEED A SHUTTLE. GET ME *UP* THERE, *NOW*.
DR. RAPPACCINI, IT'LL TAKE TIME TO PREPARE A--

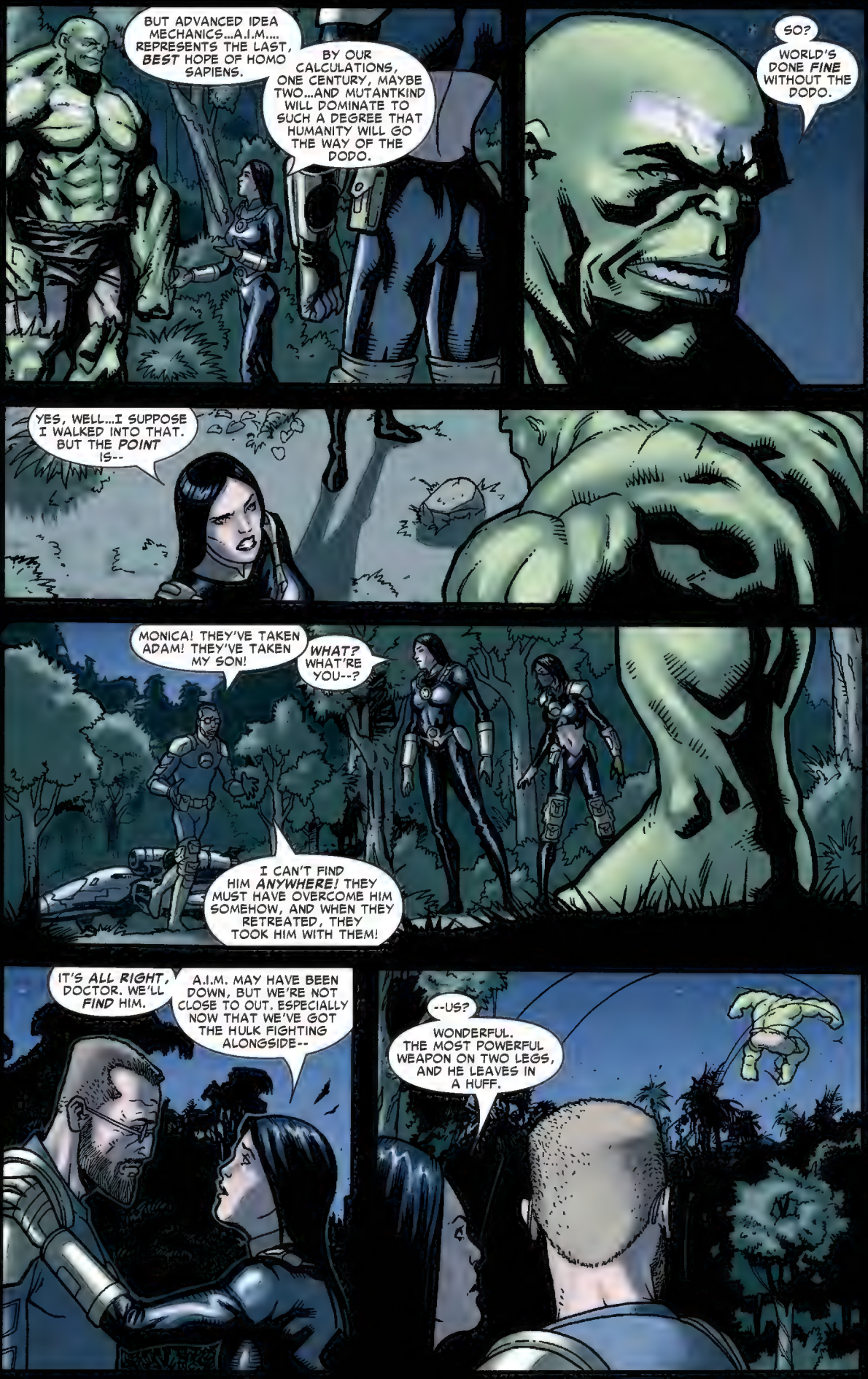
I DON'T NEED TO TAKE *TIME*, AND I *CERTAINLY* DON'T NEED TO TAKE *EXCUSES!*
THE GODS HAVE REACHED DOWN AND HANDED US A BLESSING! DON'T YOU *GET* THAT?
A HALF-TON, GREEN-SKINNED, GAMMA-IRRADIATED BLESSING!
AND I AM *NOT* GOING TO BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT IT TO ITS *FULLEST* POTENTIAL FROM DOWN HERE!

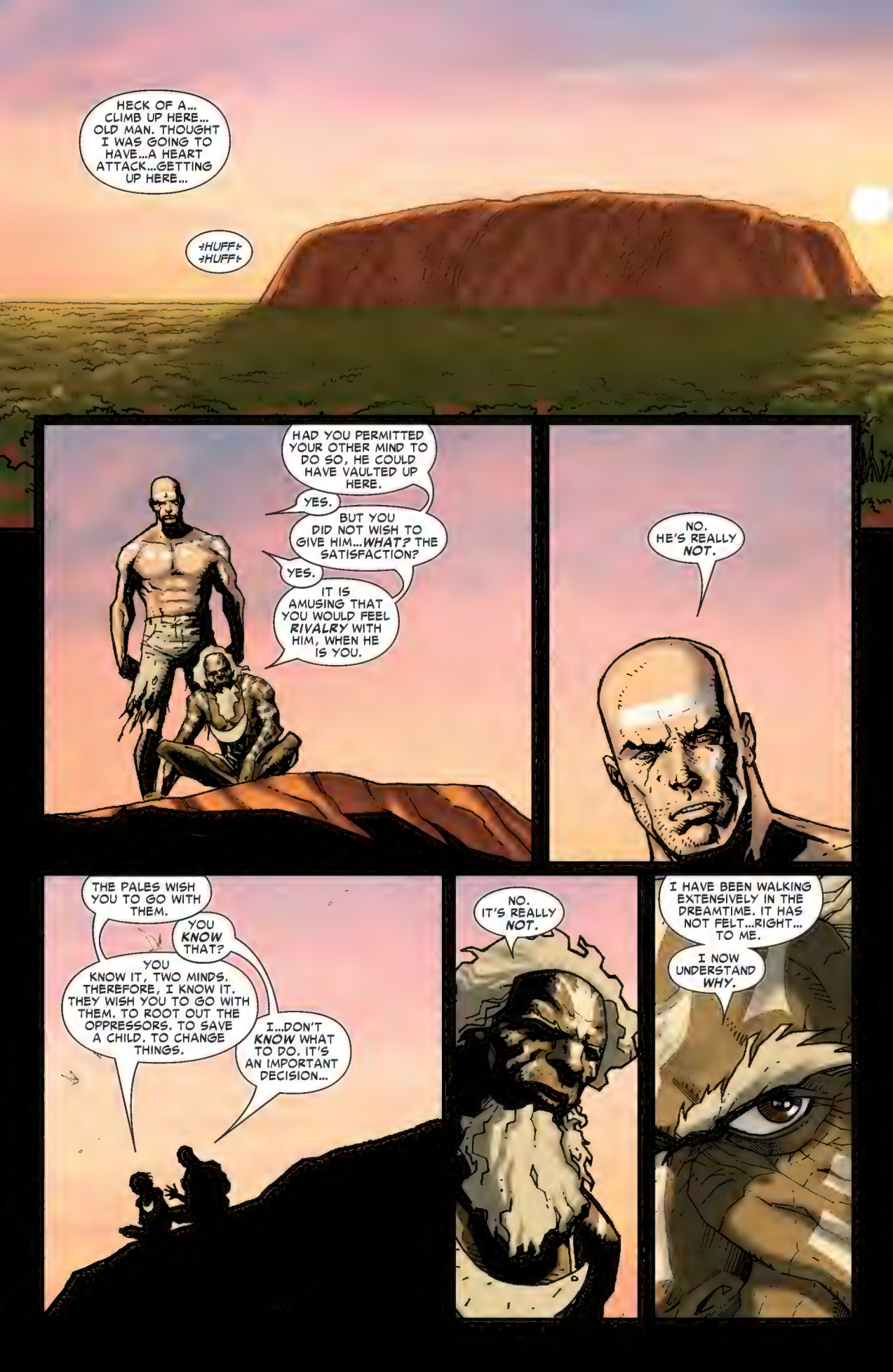
A SHUTTLE FOR DR. RAPPACCINI! *RIGHT NOW!*
COME ON, PEOPLE! MOVE LIKE YOU'VE GOT A *PURPOSE!*

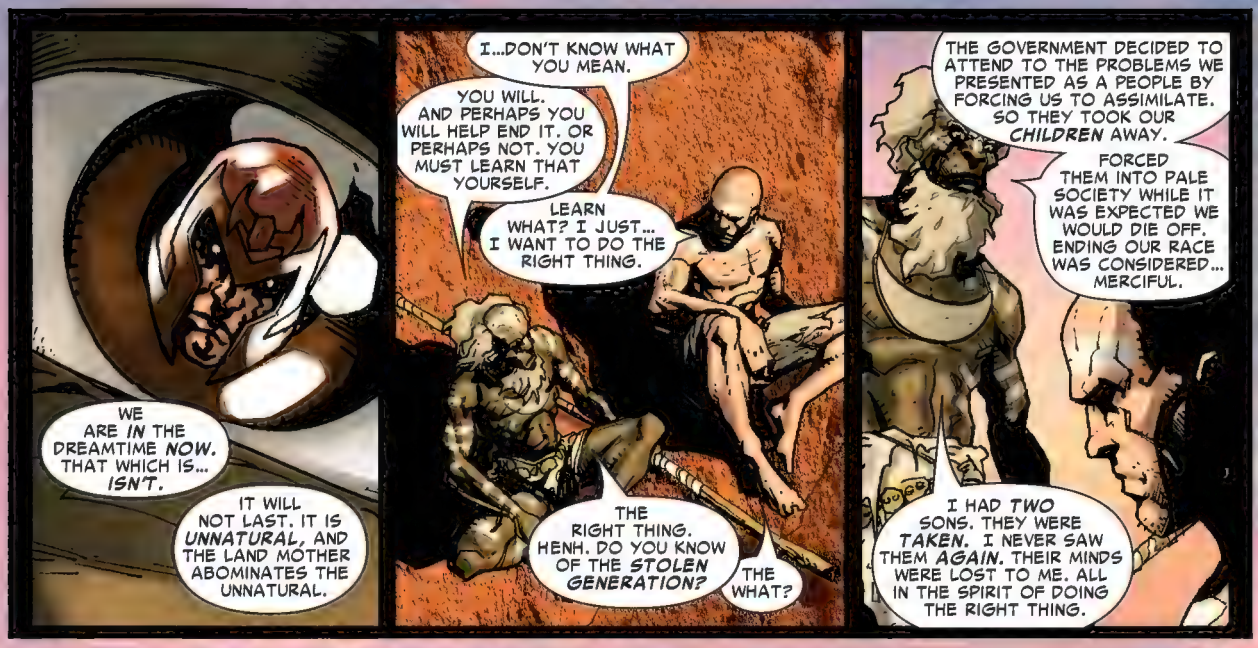
WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
REALLY?! *Y'THINK?*
THAT'S THE HULK!
I KNOW WHO HE IS, PYRO.

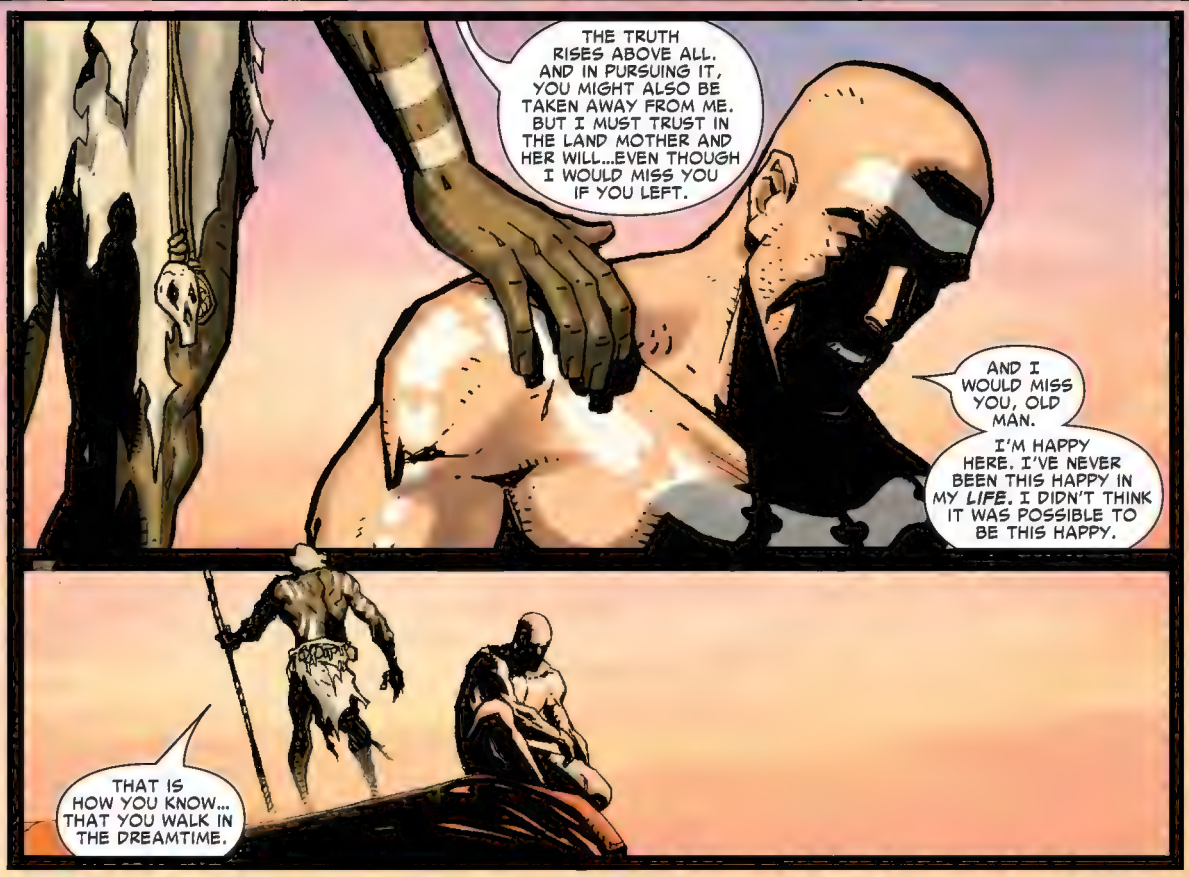
NO, EXODUS, I DON'T THINK YOU *DO*!
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE *AFRAID* OF HIM.
FREAKIN' RIGHT! YOU'VE NEVER FACED HIM! I *HAVE*, AND *DON'T* FANCY ROUND TWO!
DIDN'T MAGNETO SAY TO LEAVE THE NATIVES ALONE? *DIDN'T* HE? SO WHAT HAPPENS? YOU SEND TROOPERS RIGHT SMACK INTO ABORIGINAL TERRITORY, AND IT COMES BACK TO BITE US ON THE--

IT'S "GOVERNOR," PYRO. OR "SIR." NOT "EXODUS."
WHOA!
AS FOR THE HULK'S ARRIVAL... THIS IS JUST A SETBACK. MORE...IT'S PROOF OF WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG.
TOLERATING THE HUMAN'S EXISTENCE ON ANY LEVEL SOWS THE SEEDS OF DISCONTENT AND EVENTUAL REBELLION. OUR SECURITY HINGES ON THEIR ERADICATION.
AUSTRALIA WILL PROVIDE A BEACON OF HOPE, A MODEL FOR THE FUTURE. IT'S INEVITABLE.
NOT EVEN THE HULK CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF EVOLUTION.
AND THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, CODE NAMED "SCORPION."
DOCTOR BANNER...
HULK.
YES, OF COURSE...HULK... I APOLOGIZE FOR THE PRETENTIOUSNESS OF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY...

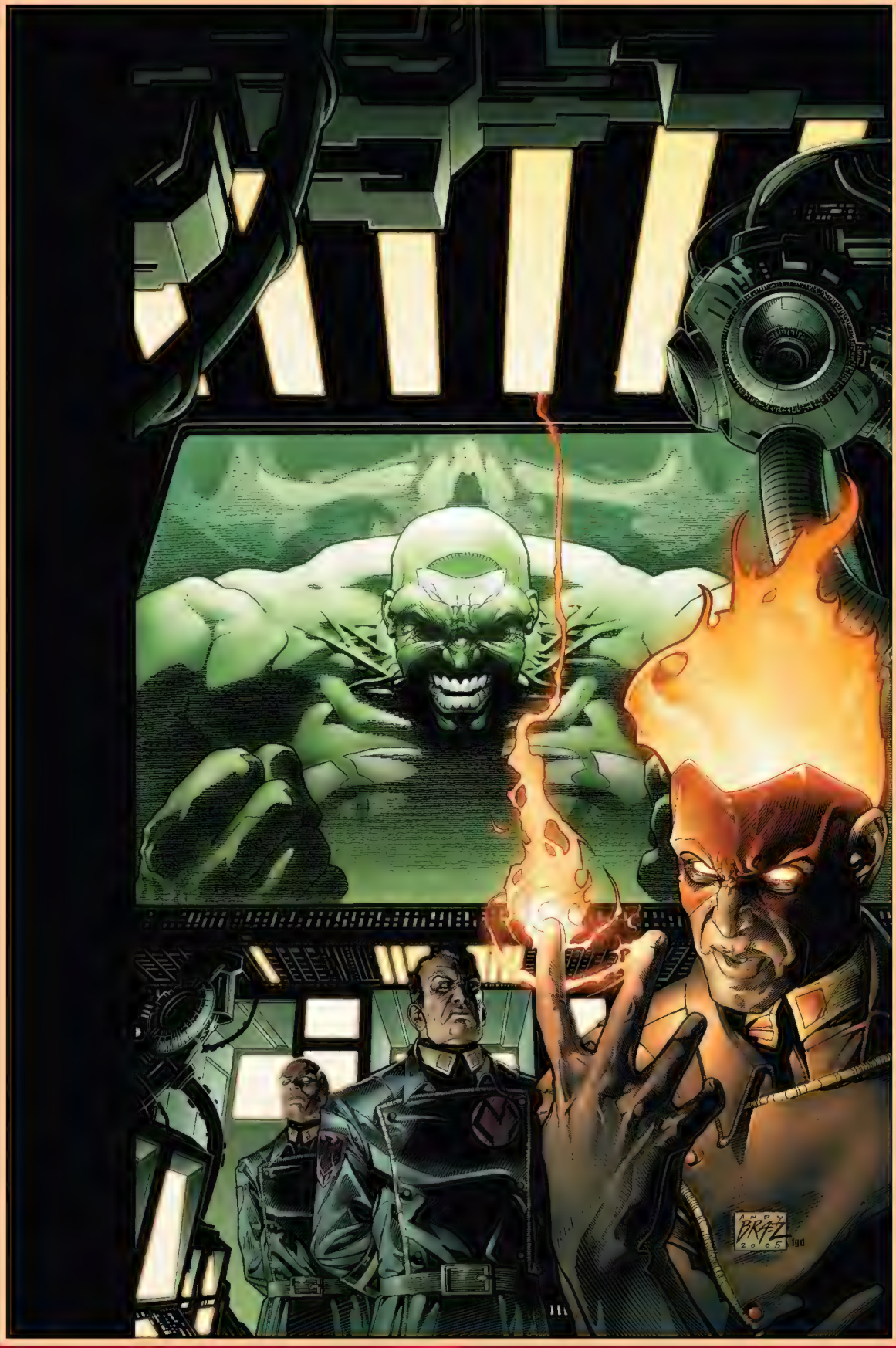

BUT ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS...A.I.M.... REPRESENTS THE LAST, BEST HOPE OF HOMO SAPIENS.
BY OUR CALCULATIONS, ONE CENTURY, MAYBE TWO...AND MUTANTKIND WILL DOMINATE TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT HUMANITY WILL GO THE WAY OF THE DODO.
SO?
WORLD'S DONE FINE WITHOUT THE DODO.
YES, WELL...I SUPPOSE I WALKED INTO THAT. BUT THE POINT IS--
MONICA! THEY'VE TAKEN ADAM! THEY'VE TAKEN MY SON!
WHAT? WHAT'RE YOU--?
I CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE! THEY MUST HAVE OVERCOME HIM SOMEHOW, AND WHEN THEY RETREATED, THEY TOOK HIM WITH THEM!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR. WE'LL FIND HIM.
A.I.M. MAY HAVE BEEN DOWN, BUT WE'RE NOT CLOSE TO OUT. ESPECIALLY NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE HULK FIGHTING ALONGSIDE--
--US?
WONDERFUL. THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON ON TWO LEGS, AND HE LEAVES IN A HUFF.


HECK OF A... CLIMB UP HERE... OLD MAN. THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HAVE...A HEART ATTACK...GETTING UP HERE...
HUFF *HUFF*
HAD YOU PERMITTED YOUR OTHER MIND TO DO SO, HE COULD HAVE VAULTED UP HERE.
YES.
BUT YOU DID NOT WISH TO GIVE HIM...*WHAT?* THE SATISFACTION?
YES.
IT IS AMUSING THAT YOU WOULD FEEL *RIVALRY* WITH HIM, WHEN HE IS YOU.
NO, HE'S REALLY *NOT.*
THE PALES WISH YOU TO GO WITH THEM.
YOU *KNOW* THAT?
YOU KNOW IT, TWO MINDS. THEREFORE, I KNOW IT. THEY WISH YOU TO GO WITH THEM. TO ROOT OUT THE OPPRESSORS. TO SAVE A CHILD. TO CHANGE THINGS.
I...DON'T *KNOW* WHAT TO DO. IT'S AN IMPORTANT DECISION...
NO. IT'S REALLY *NOT.*
I HAVE BEEN WALKING EXTENSIVELY IN THE DREAMTIME. IT HAS NOT FELT...RIGHT... TO ME.
I NOW UNDERSTAND *WHY.*


WE ARE IN THE DREAMTIME NOW. THAT WHICH IS... ISN'T.
IT WILL NOT LAST. IT IS UNNATURAL, AND THE LAND MOTHER ABOMINATES THE UNNATURAL.
I...DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
YOU WILL. AND PERHAPS YOU WILL HELP END IT. OR PERHAPS NOT. YOU MUST LEARN THAT YOURSELF.
LEARN WHAT? I JUST... I WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING.
THE RIGHT THING. HENH. DO YOU KNOW OF THE STOLEN GENERATION?
THE WHAT?
THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO ATTEND TO THE PROBLEMS WE PRESENTED AS A PEOPLE BY FORCING US TO ASSIMILATE. SO THEY TOOK OUR CHILDREN AWAY.
FORCED THEM INTO PALE SOCIETY WHILE IT WAS EXPECTED WE WOULD DIE OFF, ENDING OUR RACE WAS CONSIDERED... MERCIFUL.
I HAD TWO SONS. THEY WERE TAKEN. I NEVER SAW THEM AGAIN. THEIR MINDS WERE LOST TO ME. ALL IN THE SPIRIT OF DOING THE RIGHT THING.


THE TRUTH RISES ABOVE ALL. AND IN PURSUING IT, YOU MIGHT ALSO BE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME. BUT I MUST TRUST IN THE LAND MOTHER AND HER WILL...EVEN THOUGH I WOULD MISS YOU IF YOU LEFT.
AND I WOULD MISS YOU, OLD MAN.
I'M HAPPY HERE. I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS HAPPY IN MY LIFE. I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE TO BE THIS HAPPY.
THAT IS HOW YOU KNOW... THAT YOU WALK IN THE DREAMTIME.

PERHAPS IT IS TIME...FOR THE SNAKE TO BEGIN HIS CRAWL...TOWARD AWAKENING...AND THEN DECIDE WITH CLEAR EYES WHAT IS BEST FOR HIM.



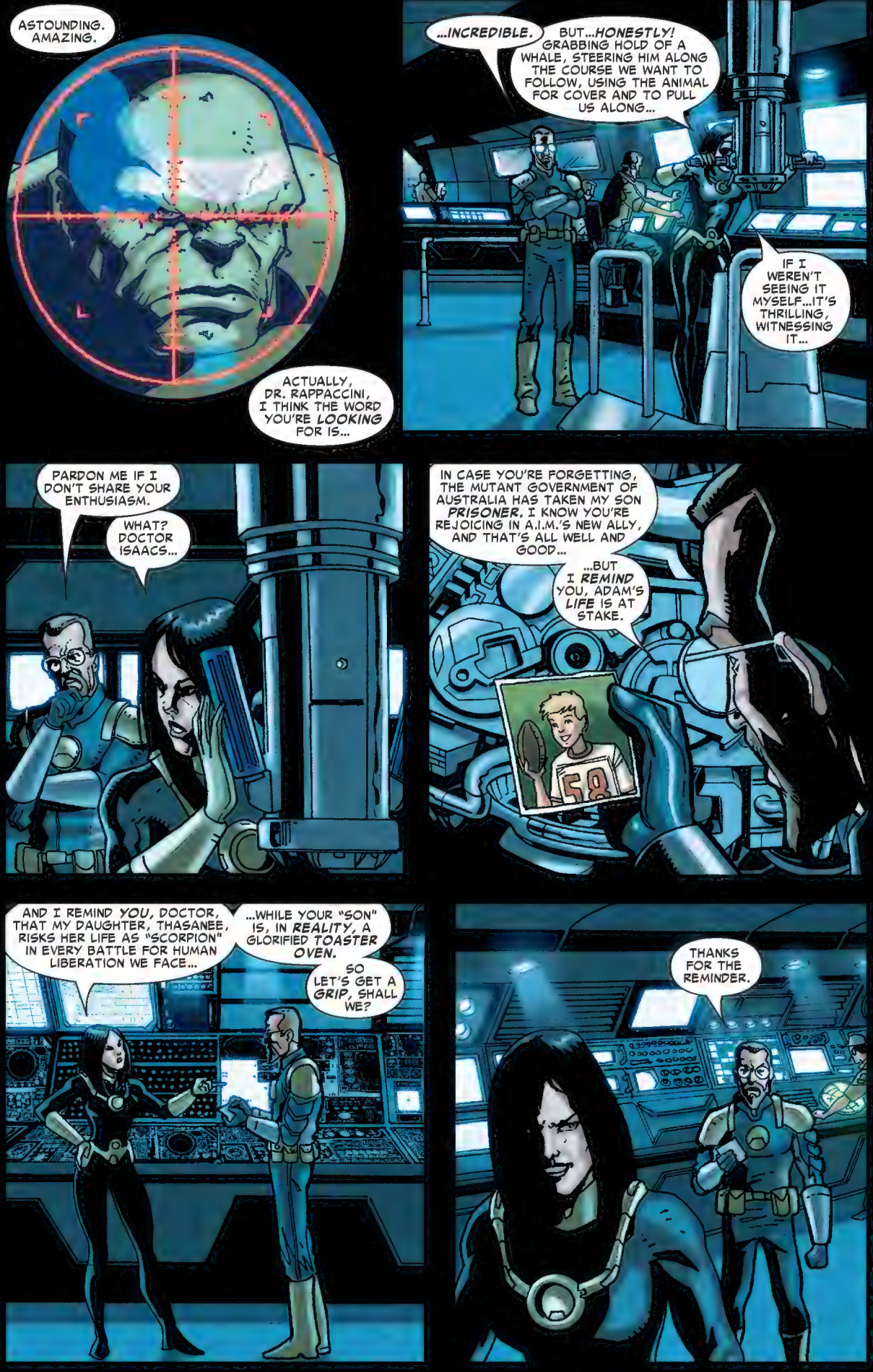
INCREDIBLE HULK #84

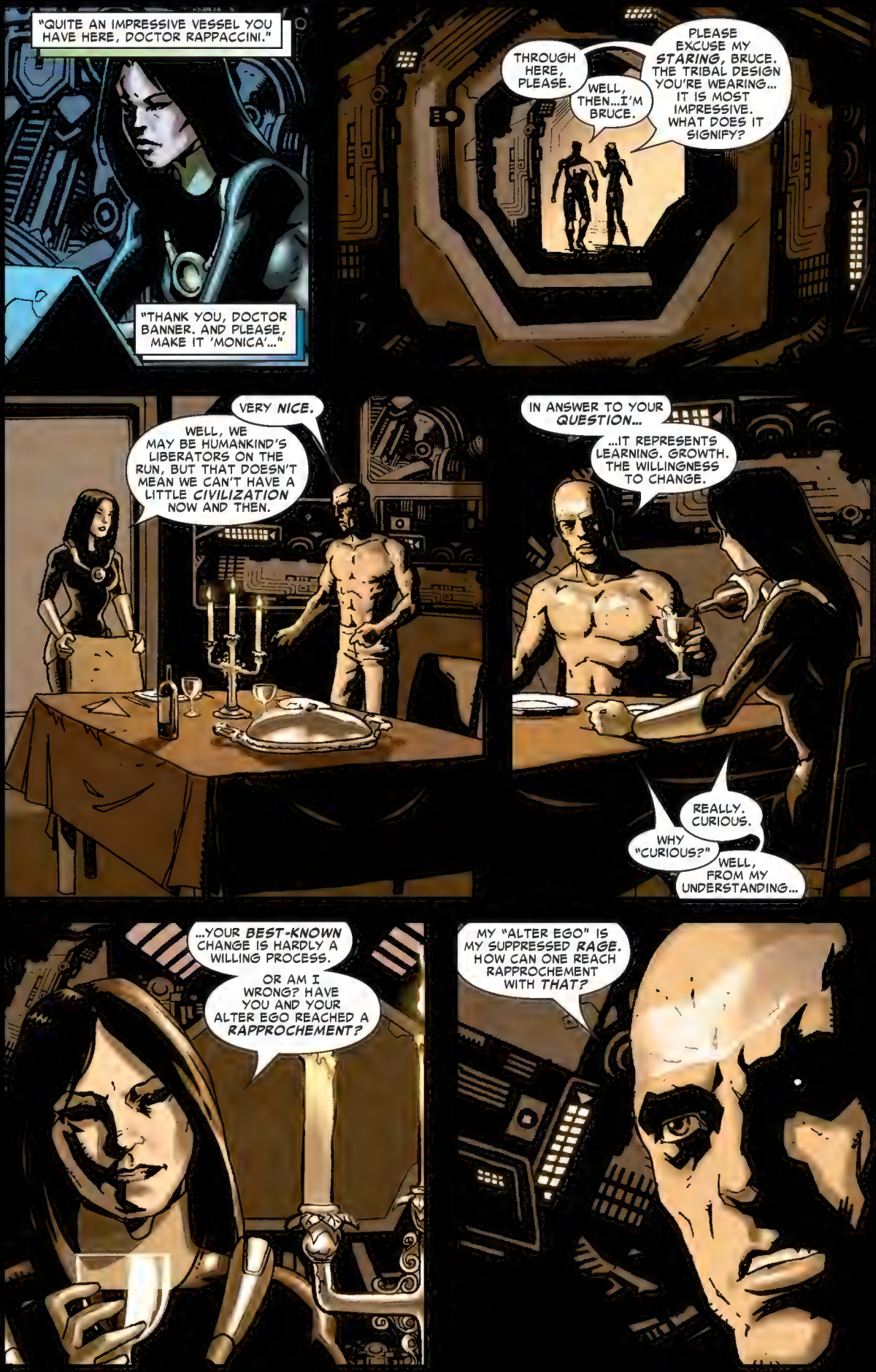
THE GOVERNOR STILL IN HIS MEETING, JOHNNY?
YEP. LONG TIME.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD JUST GENERATE FLAME LIKE THAT.
CAN'T. THIS IS LEFT OVER FROM A MATCH I LIT FIVE MINUTES AGO. JUST SEEING HOW LONG I CAN KEEP 'ER JUMPIN'.
WEIRD.
WHY WEIRD?
I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D MAKE SOMETHING SO... DELICATE.
I USED TO WRITE GOTHIC ROMANCES, MATE. I GOT MORE LAYERS THAN A PARFAIT.
YOU OKAY? THE GOVERNOR TOSSED YOU AROUND PRETTY BAD.
I'VE HAD WORSE. THING IS, HE CAN FLIP ME LIKE A POKER CHIP, STILL WON'T CHANGE THE FACTS...

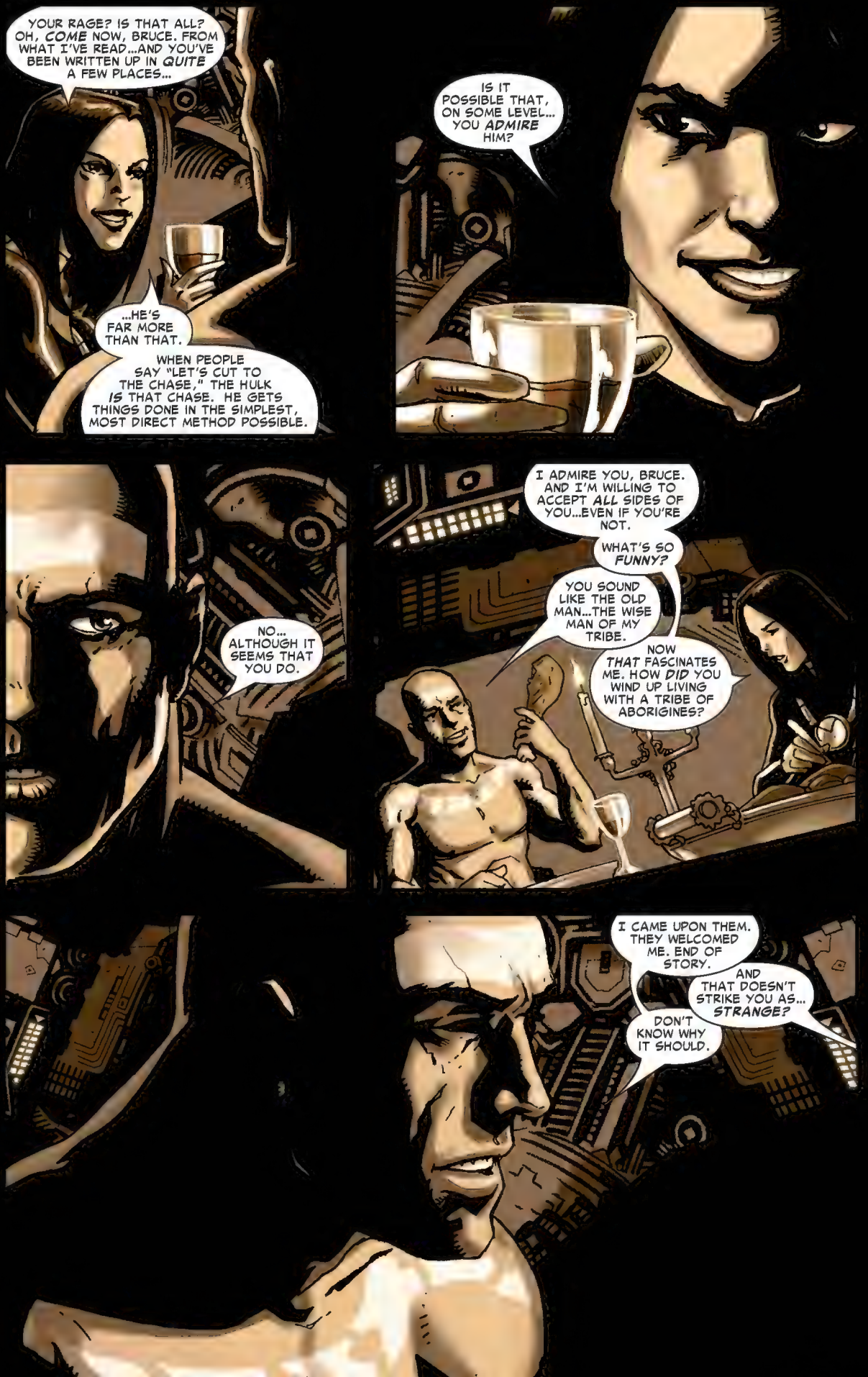
THOSE FACTS BEING...?
GO ON. SAY IT, PYRO. YOU *KNOW* YOU WANT TO. YOU SAID IT *ALREADY*--
IN TRYING TO PURIFY AUSTRALIA OF REFUGEE AND REBELLIOUS HUMANS, WE SHOULD HAVE STEERED CLEAR OF THE ABORIGINES.
BECAUSE, AS IT TURNS OUT, THE HULK TOOK UP RESIDENCE WITH A NATIVE TRIBE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND REGISTERED HIS DISPLEASURE IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY.
HULK SMASHED.
YES, VANISHER. HULK *SMASHED*.
THE RESULT BEING THAT UNUS THE UNTOUCHABLE IS *HOSPITALIZED*, OUR DARWIN FORCES ARE IN *DISARRAY*...
...THE HULK HAS APPARENTLY JOINED FORCES WITH A.I.M., OF ALL THINGS...
...AND, FOR ALL WE KNOW, IS HEADING HERE TO SYDNEY TO CONFRONT US.
AND DID YOU SPEAK TO MAGNETO?
YES.
APPRISED HIM OF THE *SITUATION*? ASKED FOR HIS *HELP*?
AGAIN, YES.
AND...?
HE SAID, "I WARNED YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM THE ABORIGINES. GOOD LUCK."

STILL, THERE'S A LOT OF TERRAIN BETWEEN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND HERE. IF THE HULK AND COMPANY ARE CROSSING IT, WE'LL SEE THEM COMING.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, CONNER?
ABSOLUTELY, GOVERNOR.
SO FAR, EVERY SKYCAM WE'VE LAUNCHED INDICATES NOTHING WITHIN FIVE HUNDRED MILES.
THERE'S OTHER WAYS THAN LAND OR AIR.
TRUE ENOUGH. WHAT ABOUT AQUATIC APPROACH, CONNER?
CLEAR SO FAR. WE *THOUGHT* WE HAD A SONAR CONTACT OF A LARGE SUBMERGED BOAT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, OFF PERTH...
...BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE A WHALE. *BLUE* WHALE--A REAL *MONSTER,* JUDGING FROM THE PINGS WE--
I ASSURE YOU, CONNER, THE ONLY MONSTER WE CARE ABOUT IS *GREEN,* NOT BLUE.
CONTINUE TO MONITOR ALL SYSTEMS. THE HULK MAY BE A BRUTE, BUT BRUCE BANNER ISN'T EXACTLY A MORON...

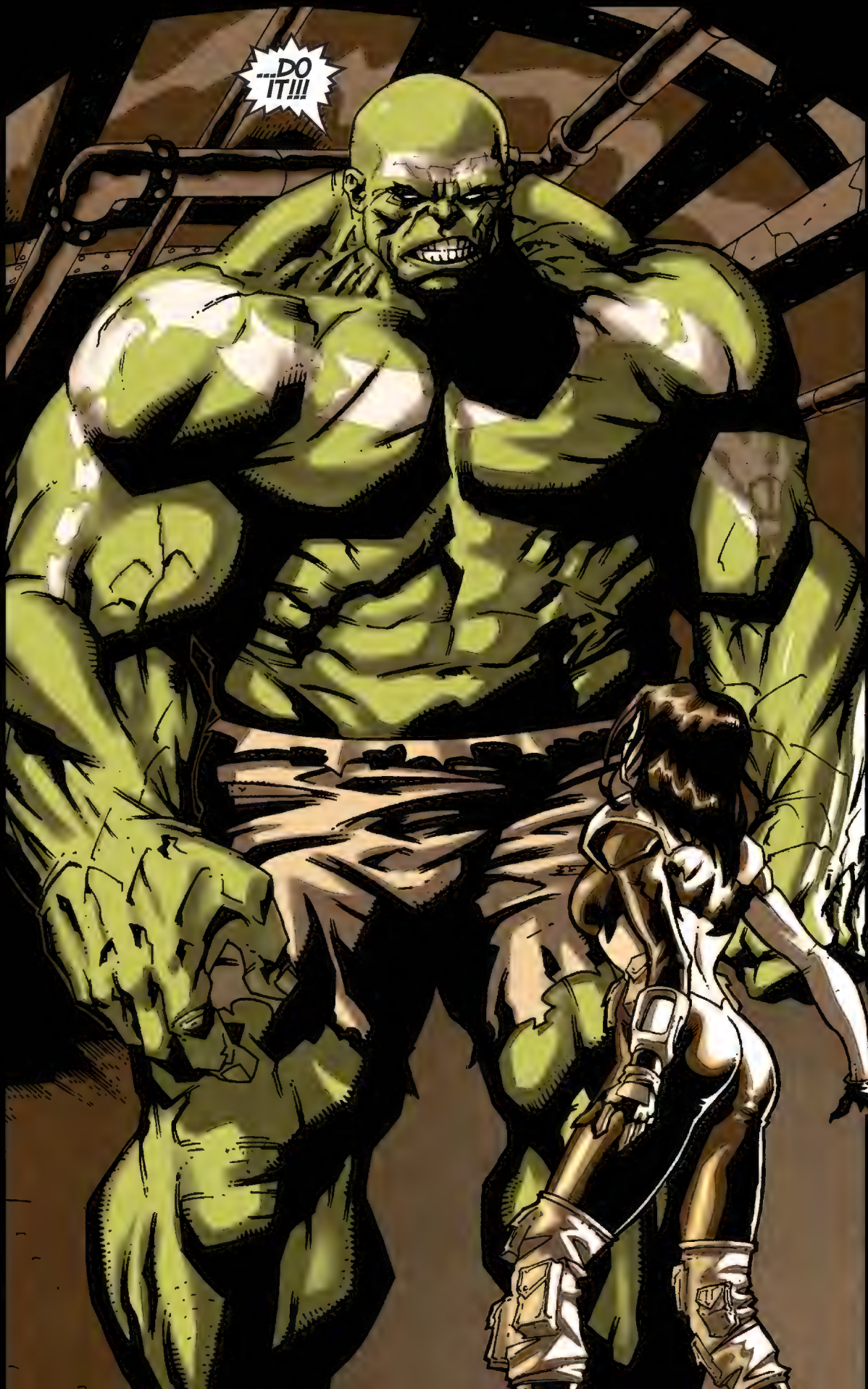
TERRA INCOGNITA PART 2


ASTOUNDING. AMAZING.
ACTUALLY, DR. RAPPACCINI, I THINK THE WORD YOU'RE *LOOKING* FOR IS...
...*INCREDIBLE.*
BUT...*HONESTLY!* GRABBING HOLD OF A WHALE, STEERING HIM ALONG THE COURSE WE WANT TO FOLLOW, USING THE ANIMAL FOR COVER AND TO PULL US ALONG...
IF I WEREN'T SEEING IT MYSELF...IT'S THRILLING, WITNESSING IT...
PARDON ME IF I DON'T SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM.
WHAT? DOCTOR ISAACS...
IN CASE YOU'RE FORGETTING, THE MUTANT GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA HAS TAKEN MY SON *PRISONER.* I KNOW YOU'RE REJOICING IN A.I.M.'S NEW ALLY, AND THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD...
...BUT I *REMIND* YOU, ADAM'S *LIFE* IS AT STAKE.
AND I REMIND *YOU,* DOCTOR, THAT MY DAUGHTER, THASANEE, RISKS HER LIFE AS "SCORPION" IN EVERY BATTLE FOR HUMAN LIBERATION WE FACE...
...WHILE YOUR "SON" IS, IN *REALITY,* A GLORIFIED *TOASTER OVEN.*
SO LET'S GET A *GRIP,* SHALL WE?
THANKS FOR THE REMINDER.


"QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE VESSEL YOU HAVE HERE, DOCTOR RAPPACCINI."
"THANK YOU, DOCTOR BANNER. AND PLEASE, MAKE IT 'MONICA'..."
THROUGH HERE, PLEASE.
WELL, THEN...I'M BRUCE.
PLEASE EXCUSE MY *STARING*, BRUCE. THE TRIBAL DESIGN YOU'RE WEARING... IT IS MOST IMPRESSIVE. WHAT DOES IT SIGNIFY?
VERY *NICE*.
WELL, WE MAY BE HUMANKIND'S LIBERATORS ON THE RUN, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T HAVE A LITTLE *CIVILIZATION* NOW AND THEN.
IN ANSWER TO YOUR *QUESTION*...
...IT REPRESENTS LEARNING. GROWTH. THE WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE.
REALLY. CURIOUS.
WHY "CURIOUS?"
WELL, FROM MY UNDERSTANDING...
...YOUR *BEST-KNOWN* CHANGE IS HARDLY A WILLING PROCESS.
OR AM I WRONG? HAVE YOU AND YOUR ALTER EGO REACHED A *RAPPROCHEMENT?*
MY "ALTER EGO" IS MY SUPPRESSED *RAGE*. HOW CAN ONE REACH RAPPROCHEMENT WITH *THAT?*


YOUR RAGE? IS THAT ALL? OH, COME NOW, BRUCE. FROM WHAT I'VE READ...AND YOU'VE BEEN WRITTEN UP IN QUITE A FEW PLACES...
...HE'S FAR MORE THAN THAT.
WHEN PEOPLE SAY "LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE," THE HULK IS THAT CHASE. HE GETS THINGS DONE IN THE SIMPLEST, MOST DIRECT METHOD POSSIBLE.
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT, ON SOME LEVEL... YOU ADMIRE HIM?
NO... ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS THAT YOU DO.
I ADMIRE YOU, BRUCE. AND I'M WILLING TO ACCEPT ALL SIDES OF YOU...EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
YOU SOUND LIKE THE OLD MAN...THE WISE MAN OF MY TRIBE.
NOW THAT FASCINATES ME. HOW DID YOU WIND UP LIVING WITH A TRIBE OF ABORIGINES?
I CAME UPON THEM. THEY WELCOMED ME. END OF STORY.
AND THAT DOESN'T STRIKE YOU AS... STRANGE?
DON'T KNOW WHY IT SHOULD.

YOU'RE A SCIENTIST, BRUCE. SINCE WHEN DID YOU EVER FEEL INCLINED...
...NOT TO QUESTION SOMETHING?
MOTHER...
WE MAY HAVE A PROBLEM.
CONN SAYS WE'VE BEEN PINGED BY SONAR. IF THE MUTANTS KNOW WE'RE COMING...
...WELL, THEY SURE WON'T BE BAKING A CAKE.
I THOUGHT I HEARD WHALE SONGS WHILE STANDING BY THE HULL EARLIER. DID I...?
YEAH. THERE'S A POD JUST OFF OUR--
STEER US TOWARD THEM. ONCE WE'RE THERE, PREPARE TO KILL THE ENGINES.
BUT...
JUST...

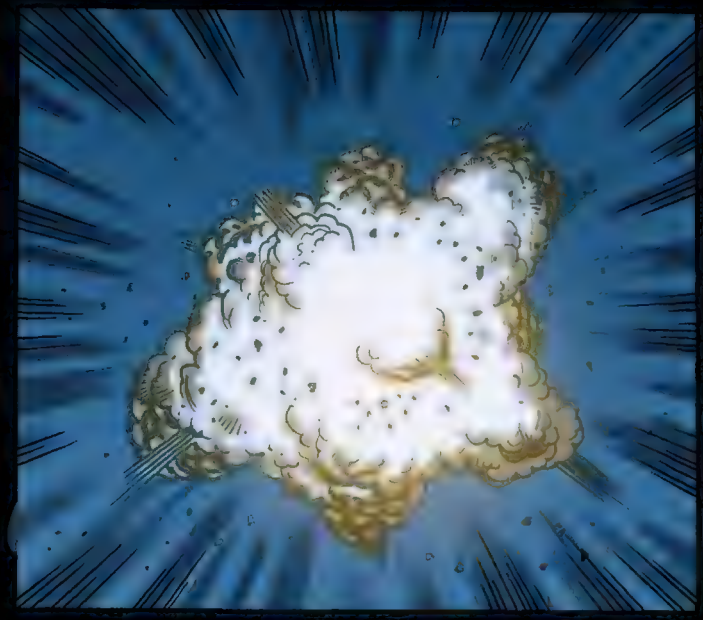

...DO IT!!!

CUTTING TO THE CHASE, ARE WE, BRUCE?
HULK. NAME'S HULK.
AND HULK KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE *UP* TO.
OH REALLY? WHAT?
SOMETHING.
YOU'RE SCREWING WITH BANNER. FINE. KINDA *LIKE* THAT.
SCREW WITH *ME*... THIS SUB IS SCRAP.
UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER?
I THINK, IN SOME WAYS, HULK...
...I UNDERSTAND *YOU* BETTER THAN I DO *BRUCE*.
GOOD.
MY DINNER WITH BRUCE.
HENH.

YOU'RE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THIS ENCOUNTER, BOY.
WE NEEDN'T BE ADVERSARIES. JUST AS WE ARE THE NEXT EVOLUTIONARY STEP ABOVE HUMANS...
...YOU ARE THE NEXT STEP ABOVE MODERN MACHINES.
YOUR NAME IS "ADAM," IS IT NOT? INTERESTING. DOCTOR FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER, IN SHELLEY'S "FRANKENSTEIN OR THE MODERN PROMETHEUS," FELT A KINSHIP TO THE BIBLICAL "ADAM."
PROMETHEUS BROUGHT ENLIGHTENMENT TO HUMANS AND SUFFERED FOR IT, AS DID FRANKENSTEIN. SO WHAT DOES ALL THAT TELL YOU?
THAT YOU LOVE HEARING THE SOUND OF YOUR OWN VOICE, BUT HEY, DON'T FEEL ANY NEED TO SHUT UP ON MY ACCOUNT.

I'M CURIOUS. HOW DID THE SCIENTIST WHO MAINTAINS YOU--
MY FATHER. HE'S MY FATHER.
VERY WELL. HOW DID YOUR *FATHER* COME TO HOOK UP WITH ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS?
NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS...
...BUT HIS RESEARCH FACILITY WAS BLOWN UP BY A MUTANT FRINGE GROUP THAT HATED THE IDEA OF HUMANS ENGAGED IN ANY SORT OF SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION, NO MATTER HOW BENIGN.
FORTUNATELY, A.I.M. WAS MONITORING THE SITUATION. THEY DUG US OUT...SAVED OUR LIVES.
HIS LIFE. YOUR *EXISTENCE.*
WHATEVER.
CURIOUS. I'M UNAWARE OF ANY "MUTANT FRINGE GROUP" BOMBING RESEARCH FACILITIES.
YEAH, WELL, MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW *EVERYTHING.*
MAYBE...
OR MAYBE THE BOMBING SUITED A.I.M.'S NEEDS.

WHAT THE BLAZES...?!?
THAT'S THE PROXIMITY ALARM!
CONNER! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SLOW YOUR THOUGHTS DOWN, CONNER! IT'S LIKE TRYING TO SIFT THROUGH STATIC. FOCUS.
THAT WHALE CONTACT WE HAD? IT WAS A BLASTED SUB, AFTER ALL.
IT GOT WITHIN TEN MILES OF SHORE AND FIRED A MISSILE...
I SEE IT.
DON'T WORRY.
I'LL ATTEND TO IT.



NOW WHAT?

STAND DOWN THE ALERTS, CONNER. THIS WASN'T AN ATTACK. IT WAS A WARNING SHOT.

IT DIDN'T HAVE A WARHEAD. IT HAD A MESSAGE.

A MESSAGE RECEIVED LOUD AND CLEAR.
A.I.M. AND BRUCE BANNER REQUEST A SUMMIT TO SETTLE MATTERS PEACEFULLY. WE SUGGEST YOU DO NOT MAKE US ANGRY.

THEY'VE ACCEPTED.
IT'S A TRAP.
NOT IF THEY'RE SMART.
THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE SMART. THEY'RE IN CHARGE. THEY'RE HOLDING ALL THE CARDS, NOT TO MENTION MY SON.
AND YET YOU KEEP MENTIONING HIM.
I STILL SAY IT'S A TRAP. IT'S RIDICULOUS TO GO IN WITH HAT IN HAND WHEN YOU CAN GO IN AS THE HULK AND KICK THEIR BUTTS OUT OF THEIR IVORY TOWER.
YOU'RE YOUNG. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND YET.
I UNDERSTAND WHEN I'M BEING PATRONIZED, THANKS.
I WASN'T BEING...
OKAY. MAYBE I WAS. A LITTLE.
THE POINT IS THAT "VIOLENT SOLUTIONS" IS AN OXYMORON. VIOLENCE BEGETS MORE VIOLENCE, ALWAYS.
BUT--
ALWAYS. TRUST ME. I KNOW.
OUR GOAL IS TO ESTABLISH AN END TO PERSECUTION OF HUMANS IN AUSTRALIA.
UNLEASHING THE HULK WILL ONLY ESTABLISH THAT HE'S THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS. THEY ALREADY GOT THAT MEMO.
THE HULK LIVES TO PROVE HE'S SUPERIOR TO ME. YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE HIM A REASON TO DO SO.

YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY QUIET, MOTHER. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHAT DO I THINK?
I DON'T THINK THE HULK LIVES TO PROVE HE'S SUPERIOR TO YOU.
I THINK HE'S THE PART OF YOU THAT LIVES TO PROVE YOU'RE SUPERIOR TO EVERYONE ELSE.
THANKS FOR SHARING THAT.
NO PROBLEM.
WE PLAY IT DOCTOR BANNER'S WAY. THASANEE, MY DEAR... YOU'RE GOING TO BE WATCHING THE GOOD DOCTOR'S BACK.
DOCTOR ISAACS, YOU'LL ACCOMPANY THEM.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
ME? I'LL BE STAYING HERE AS BACKUP.
AND IF IT IS A TRAP... AND YOU DON'T RETURN...
THEN I MAKE SURE WE BLOW THEM ALL TO HELL.

THEY'RE COMING.
OH, REALLY.
WHAT WAS YOUR *FIRST* CLUE?
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?
WHEN VLAD III, FIFTEENTH-CENTURY RULER OF WALLACHIA, WAS SENT ENVOYS HE DIDN'T LIKE, HE IMPALED THEIR HEADS ON SPIKES. THUS DID HE SEND A *MESSAGE*.
OKAY, BUT...THE HULK WASN'T IN THOSE ENVOYS.
I SEE NO HULK. MERELY A MAN.
I CAN KILL A MAN.
I CAN KILL A *HUNDRED* MEN.
LIKE THIS.

GEEYARRRRHHHH!!!!
THIS IS NOT GONNA END WELL...
CALMLY, PYRO. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME THE WAY THAT HE HAS.
I'M MENTALLY SUPPRESSING HIS CHANGE. MAKING HIM REALIZE THE FULL MEASURE OF HIS HELPLESSNESS.
I WANT THE HUMANS OF AUSTRALIA...THESE SPINELESS DRUDGES DOWN THERE WE KEEP AS SERVANTS, OR THOSE WHO SERVE AS SOLDIERS BUT MIGHT MAINTAIN HOPE OF LIBERATION...
...I WANT THEM TO SEE THEIR LIBERATORS BEG FOR MERCY...AND THEN RECEIVE NONE.
I'VE LAID THE OTHERS LOW AS WELL. IT'S JUST THAT EASY.
A-ADAM... NOW...WE'RE HERE...TIME TO SHOW THEM...

...WHAT YOU CAN DO...
BEEN WAITING TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, DAD.
FELLAS, IT'S BEEN SWELL BEING YOUR LAB RAT AND ALL...
...BUT I'M BLOWING THIS POPSICLE STAND.
BACK ON THE TABLE! NOW!!
UH, GUYS, YOU AREN'T GETTING IT.
WHEN I TALKED ABOUT BLOWING THIS PLACE...
...I MEANT BLOWING AS IN, Y'KNOW...

...UP.
LIKE THIS.
WHAT IN THE--?!?
WHAT'S GOING ON UP TH--!
FOCUS! FOCUS!! DON'T GET DISTRAC--
AW, PUS!!! HE'S MAD AS A CUT SNAKE NOW!
LET HIM BE MAD.
DO YOU HEAR THAT, HULK?

DO YOU THINK YOUR ANGER MATTERS TO MY PSIONIC BLASTS?
IF...IT DOESN'T...
...IT SHOULD!
IM... IMPOSSIBLE!!!
I WARNED YOU! GOD ALMIGHTY, I WARNED YOU!!

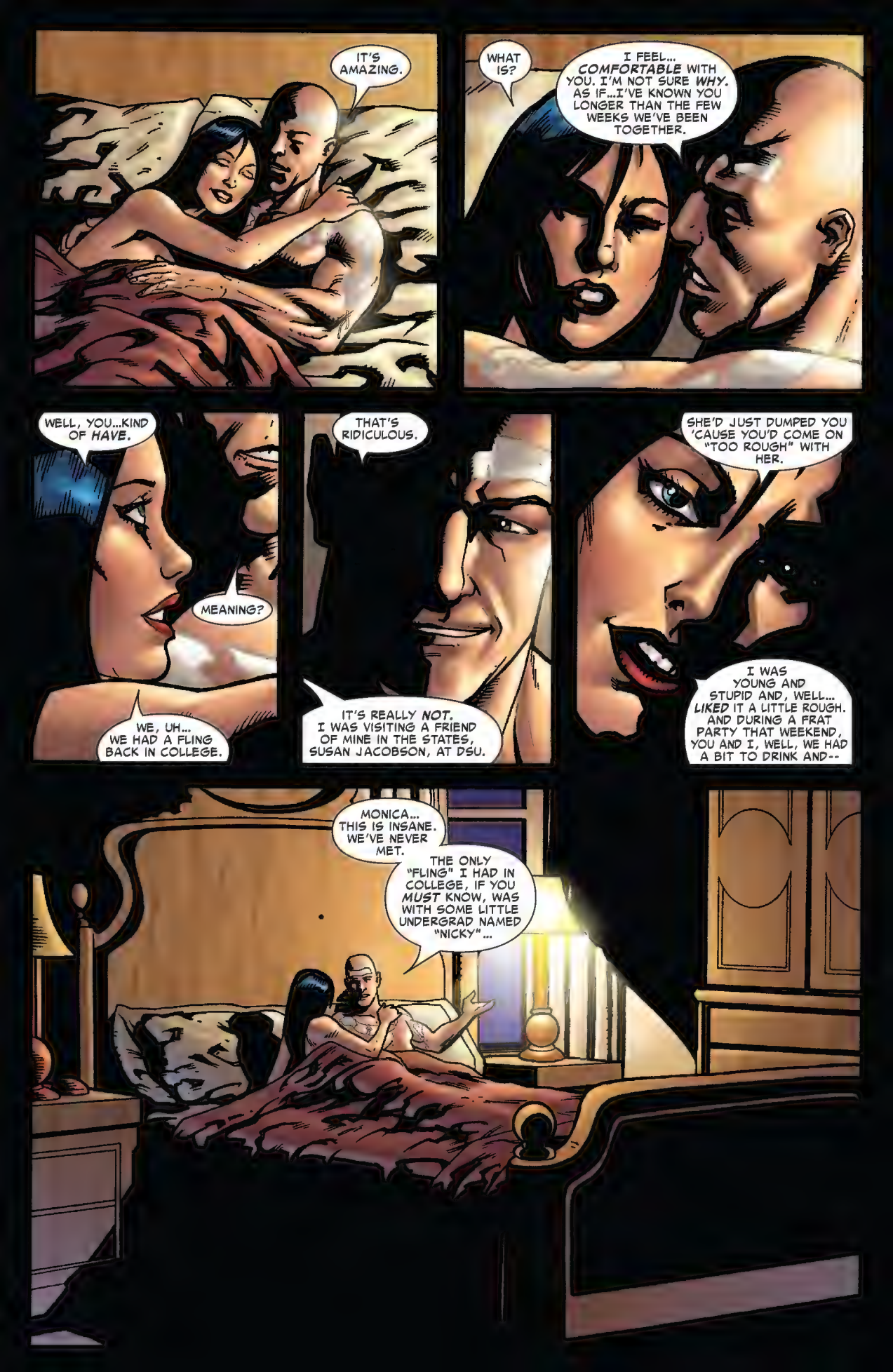
MOTHER! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
WE'RE READING YOU, THASANEE. SITREP, PLEASE.
I WAS RIGHT! IT IS A TRAP! EXODUS AND HIS MUTANTS HAVE US PINNED DOW--
UNFF!
WHO ELSE?!
C'MON! WHO ELSE?
HULK! HULK! HULK!
FREEEEDOM!!!!
THE LAST HOPE OF HUMANITY!
UH...MOM? CANCEL THAT. THE SITUATION'S LOOKING UP.
WAY... WAY UP.
HULK! HULK! HULK!

INCREDIBLE HULK #85

LEGGO! LEGGO, YOU STUPID JER--
UNFFFF!
I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
THERE WAS A GIRL WITH YOU. WHERE IS SHE?
SCARPERED! AHHHH! WATCH IT!
AUSTRALIA'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE LAND OF THE FREE! WITH THE HULK RUNNING THINGS, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD!
IT IS FREE. AND YOU'RE VOLUNTEERING TO HELP KEEP IT THAT WAY.
SO GOOD ON YOU, MATE.
I WANNA TALK TO THE HULK! OR BRUCE BANNER!
TRY TALKING TO GOD. MAYBE HE'LL PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU.
DON'T WORRY, JON... THE HULK WILL SAVE YOU...

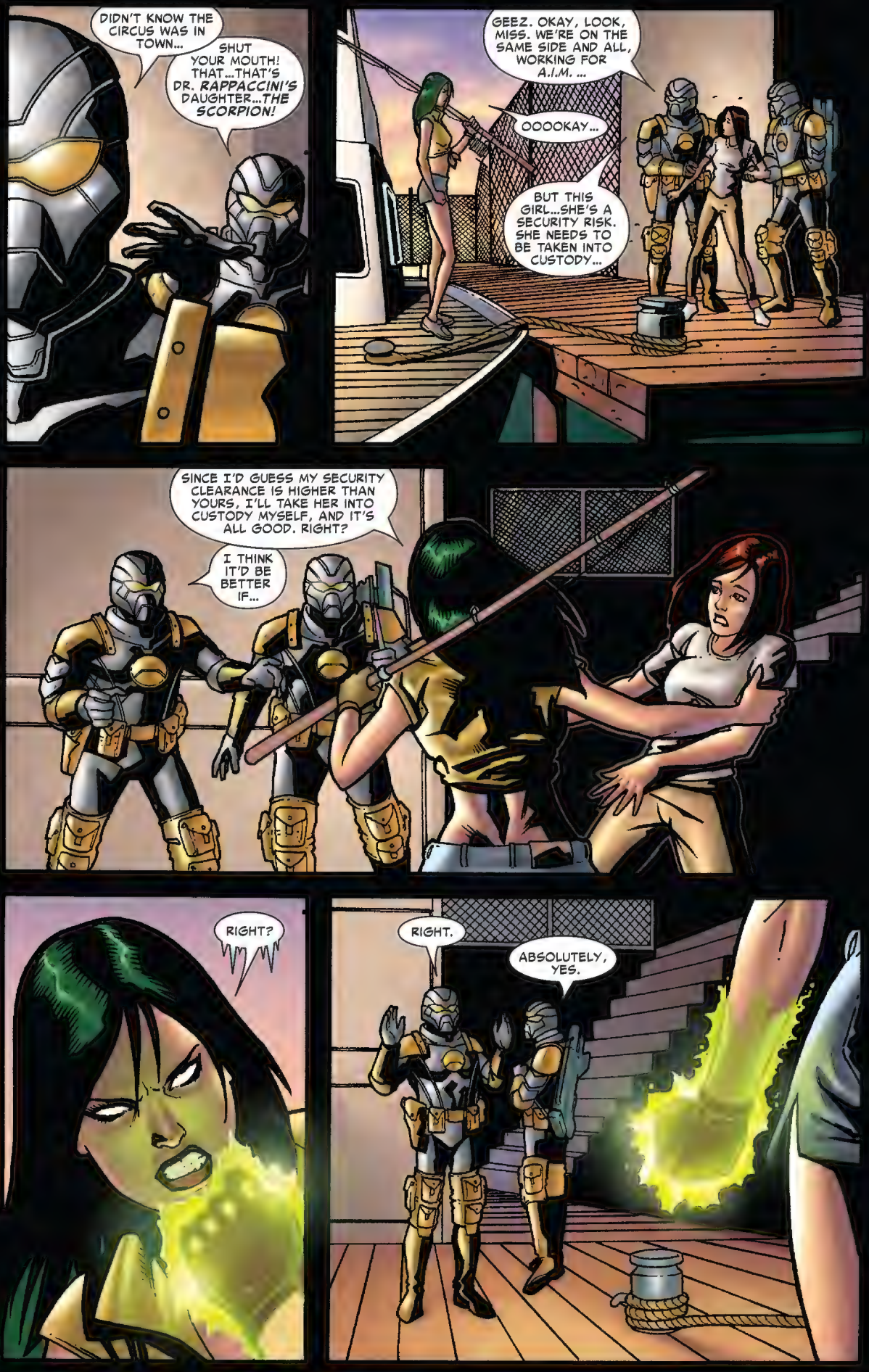
TERRA INCOGNITA
PART 3
HULK SMASH PUNY PAPERWORK!!!!
MR. PRESIDENT

OH, THAT'S FUNNY.
IT'S NOT. WHAT IF IT HAD ACTUALLY HAPPENED?
YOU MEAN IF YOU'D ACTUALLY "HULKED OUT" OVER EXCESS PAPERWORK?
I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT DOING IT.
MY IMPRESSION IS THAT YOU DIDN'T "THINK" ABOUT IT. IT JUST HAPPENS.
IT'S... COMPLICATED. THERE'S GRAY AREAS.
GREEN ONES, TOO.
IT'S NOT A JOKE!
THE POWER I...
...IF I LOSE CONTROL, EVEN OVER SOMETHING IMBECILIC LIKE PAPERWORK OR A STUBBED TOE OR...
I GET IT.
IT'S JUST...IT'S NOT A JOKE.
I SAID I GET IT.
DO YOU?
YES.
BECAUSE IT'S CRITICAL THAT YOU--


IT'S AMAZING.
WHAT IS?
I FEEL... COMFORTABLE WITH YOU. I'M NOT SURE WHY. AS IF...I'VE KNOWN YOU LONGER THAN THE FEW WEEKS WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER.
WELL, YOU...KIND OF HAVE.
MEANING?
WE, UH... WE HAD A FLING BACK IN COLLEGE.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
IT'S REALLY NOT. I WAS VISITING A FRIEND OF MINE IN THE STATES, SUSAN JACOBSON, AT DSU.
SHE'D JUST DUMPED YOU 'CAUSE YOU'D COME ON "TOO ROUGH" WITH HER.
I WAS YOUNG AND STUPID AND, WELL... LIKED IT A LITTLE ROUGH. AND DURING A FRAT PARTY THAT WEEKEND, YOU AND I, WELL, WE HAD A BIT TO DRINK AND--
MONICA... THIS IS INSANE. WE'VE NEVER MET.
THE ONLY "FLING" I HAD IN COLLEGE, IF YOU MUST KNOW, WAS WITH SOME LITTLE UNDERGRAD NAMED "NICKY"...

DIME DROP YET?
"NICKY."
UH-HUH.
SHORT FOR "NICOLE"...
EXCEPT WHEN IT'S SHORT FOR...
"MONICA."
KA-CHING.
IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, I'VE GOTTEN OVER YOU NOT CALLING THE FOLLOWING WEEK... OR EVER.
MONICA, I'M...I'M SO SORRY...
IT'S OKAY.
COLLEGE WAS A VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR ME...OF COURSE, SO WAS HIGH SCHOOL...
ACTUALLY, ADULTHOOD HASN'T BEEN A CAKEWALK EITHER.
BRUCE...I SAID IT'S OKAY.
I MEAN... SERIOUSLY! WE'RE RUNNING AUSTRALIA! WE'VE TURNED IT INTO A REFUGE FOR ANY HUMAN WHO FEELS THEIR RESPECTIVE MUTANT GOVERNMENTS ARE GIVING THEM SHORT SHRIFT!
WE'RE PROCESSING APPLICATIONS, ADJUDICATING OVER DISPUTES, WORKING OUR BUTTS OFF...
...AND, BY THE WAY, HAVING A LITTLE FUN ON THE SIDE...
DOESN'T WORRYING ABOUT THE PAST SEEM...A WASTE OF ENERGY?

HUNH... HUNH...
HULLO, MISS.
OH, GOD, NO!!!!
'FRAID YOU'RE GONNA HAVE T'COME WITH US.
WHAT'S SHE DONE?
EH?
HELP ME! PLEASE!!!
I SAID... WHAT'S SHE DONE?
I DON'T THINK THAT'S ANY OF YOUR CONCERN, MISS.
THINK AGAIN.


DIDN'T KNOW THE CIRCUS WAS IN TOWN...
SHUT YOUR MOUTH! THAT...THAT'S DR. RAPPACCINI'S DAUGHTER...THE SCORPION!
GEEZ. OKAY, LOOK, MISS. WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE AND ALL, WORKING FOR A.I.M. ...
OOOOKAY...
BUT THIS GIRL...SHE'S A SECURITY RISK. SHE NEEDS TO BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY...
SINCE I'D GUESS MY SECURITY CLEARANCE IS HIGHER THAN YOURS, I'LL TAKE HER INTO CUSTODY MYSELF, AND IT'S ALL GOOD. RIGHT?
I THINK IT'D BE BETTER IF...
RIGHT?
RIGHT.
ABSOLUTELY, YES.

TH-THANK YOU...I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO--
YEAH, WELL, JUST BE GLAD I GET UP EARLY TO FISH...
...AND YOU LOOKED PATHETIC ENOUGH THAT I TOOK YOUR SIDE AGAINST SOME EAGER A.I.M. GUYS WHO WERE KIND OF SMUG.
YOU'RE SOPPING WET, YOU KNOW...
THEY TOOK JONNY.
ALL RIGHT. THAT ANSWER DOESN'T REALLY FOLLOW WHAT I JUST SAID, BUT...
THEY SAID THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SUBJECTS, FOR ROUTINE MEDICAL STUFF. TESTS AND THINGS, Y'KNOW, PLUS ROOM AND BOARD FOR THE DURATION.
THEY PROMISED GOOD PAY. ME AND JONNY, WE JUST ARRIVED. HAD NO PLACE TO STAY. THE OFFER SEEMED...
BUT THERE'S...IT'S ALL WRONG! PEOPLE STARTED DISAPPEARING...
WE THOUGHT WE'D BE NEXT! SO WE GOT OUT! BUT THEY CAME AFTER US...
OH, GOD... THEY GOT JONNY. TOOK HIM AWAY...
IT'S GONNA BE OKAY. I SWEAR TO YOU.
PLEASE FIND HIM. HE'S GOT A TATTOO OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD ON HIS ARM... HE...
I'LL FIND HIM. PROMISE.

PROMISE?
YOU SWEAR THIS IS THE LAST STAFF MEETING FOR THE DAY?
ABSOLUTELY, DR. BANNER.
I WAS HOPING YOU'D HAD THE CHANCE TO LOOK OVER THE HOUSING REPORTS I GAVE YOU.
YES. ACCORDING TO THESE, WE HAVEN'T ENOUGH.
THAT'S CORRECT, YES. I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT--
IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO SUGGEST WE PUT A CAP ON IMMIGRATION...
IT'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO CONSIDER.
THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM IN THE OUTBACK, IF PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO LIVE OFF THE LAND.
IT PRESENTS A MASSIVE SECURITY RISK--!
...AS HEAD OF RESEARCH AND SECURITY, I HAVE TO AGREE...
TO SAY NOTHING OF POTENTIALLY ENCROACHING ON THE TERRITORY OF THE ABORIGINES.
THE ANSWER SEEMS SIMPLE: WE PUT THE IMMIGRANTS TO WORK BUILDING NEW HOUSING. THERE MUST BE BUILDERS, CONTRACTORS, ARCHITECTS AMONG THEM...

BUT WE'LL NEED TO IMPORT THE RAW MATERIAL FOR BUILDING, SIR. IT MEANS DEALING WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS...*MUTANT* GOVERNMENTS.
I'VE MADE PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES AND THEY ARE...
...*LESS* THAN COOPERATIVE.
OH.
ARE THEY.
NOW.
ADAM!!!
YES, DOCTOR BANNER?
ADAM, COULD YOU USE YOUR FORMIDABLE RECORDING ABILITIES TO TAKE A BRIEF MEMO...
...AND CIRCULATE IT TO EVERY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT YOU CAN THINK OF?
ABSOLUTELY, SIR.
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA.
COOPERATE WITH US ON *ALL* BUSINESS MATTERS...
...OR HULK WILL SMASH.
VERY TRULY YOURS, ETC., ETC.
GOT ALL THAT?
I THINK SO, DOCTOR. WANT ME TO READ IT BACK?
I TRUST YOU. GET THAT RIGHT OUT, WOULD YOU?
YES, SIR.
THAT WRAP THIS UP?
ONE OTHER THING...
HAD A FEELING.

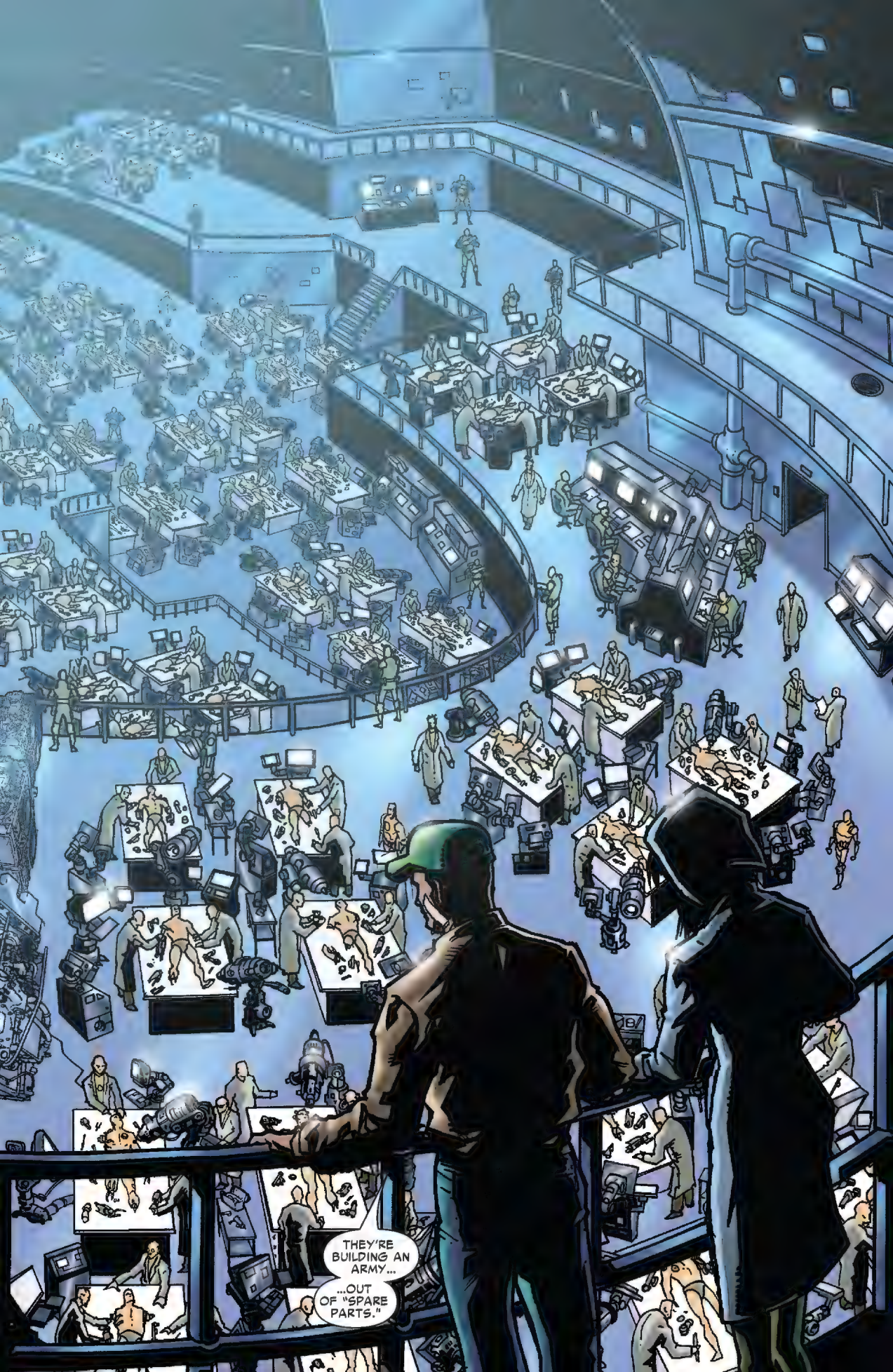
IT'S JUST...WELL... THE PEOPLE ADORE THE HULK, SIR. HE'S A SYMBOL OF STRENGTH AND POWER IN THE FACE OF MUTANT DOMINATION.
HIS PRESENCE HELPS...REMIND EVERYONE OF WHO'S IN CHARGE.
SO IT MIGHT HELP IF HE COULD, WELL...
PUT IN AN OCCASIONAL *APPEARANCE?*
EXACTLY, SIR, YES. TROT HIM OUT ON THE BALCONY--
TO GIVE THE FOLKS A THRILL.
WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY "THRILL..."
HOW ABOUT, FOR *FIREWORKS* FANS, WE SET OFF AN *ATOMIC BOMB?*
SIR, THAT'S NOT EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN--
HE DOESN'T *GET* TROTTED OUT.
HE DOESN'T DO THREE SHOWS A NIGHT.
HE HIDES IN ME, AND WHEN HE EMERGES, PEOPLE BLEED AND BUILDINGS COLLAPSE.
HE'S NOT A PARTY TRICK. HE'S THE *HULK.* DO YOU GET THAT?
Yessir.
GOOD.
MEETING'S ADJOURNED.

IDIOTS.
WHAT HAVE I LET MYSELF GET PULLED INTO...
THE DREAMTIME. IT WILL NOT LAST.
BUT IT CAN DO GREAT DAMAGE WHILE IT DOES.
PEOPLE ARE DISAPPEARING, TWO MINDS. HOW CAN YOU NOT HEAR THEIR SCREAMS?
WHAT THE--?
DOCTOR BANNER...?
I THINK WE MAY HAVE A SITUATION.

HELLO, WE HEAR YOU'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS?
THAT'S RIGHT. FOR MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS.
INTERESTING. WHAT SORT?
OH, YOU'LL BE FINE, I ASSURE YOU.
THAT... REALLY WASN'T MY QUESTION.
WELL, HOW ABOUT YOU FILL OUT THIS RELEASE, AND WE'LL TAKE IT FROM THERE.
HOW ABOUT YOU GO TO SLEEP AND WE'LL TAKE IT FROM THERE?
WHAT ARE YOU--?
UNFFFF...

WHAT PRECISELY ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
3M Corporate Governance – Sustainability
I DUNNO. INCRIMINATING PAPERS. JOURNALS. A SECRET PASSAGEWAY TO AN UNDERGROUND LAB.
MOST OF THIS IS RELEASE FORMS. NOTHING "INCRIMINATING."
CHECK THE DESK ITSELF. MAYBE THERE'S SOME HIDDEN SWITCH.
SCORPION, I KNOW YOU PEOPLE WORK WITH A MAJOR SPY ORGANIZATION, BUT STILL...
...YOU'VE GOT A SERIOUS OVERABUNDANCE OF IMAGINA--
CLICK
WHOA!!!!

SCORPION! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
OHHHH... FINE...
IF IT HELPS AT ALL, I APOLOGIZE FOR THE "IMAGINATION" CRACK.
NOT MUCH HELP, NO.
GET DOWN HERE AND CHECK ME FOR BROKEN BONES, WOULD'JA PLEASE?
YOU SEEM INTACT ENOUGH. THE COSTUME YOU'RE WEARING UNDER YOUR CLOTHES OBVIOUSLY GIVES YOU ADDITIONAL PROTECTION.
YES, WELL... A GIRL CAN'T GET ENOUGH PROTECTION THESE DAYS.
I HEAR SOMETHING... UP THIS WAY.
CLANKING.
WHAT KIND OF SOMETHING?
OH, YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING--?!?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?


THEY'RE BUILDING AN ARMY...
...OUT OF "SPARE PARTS."

INTRUDERS!!!
VWAAAAAT VWAAAAT
LORD, WOULD IT KILL THEM TO MAKE A "RED ALERT" KLAXON THAT WASN'T INCREDIBLY ANNOYING?
NOT A MAJOR CONCERN RIGHT NOW.
HANDLE THINGS HERE FOR A MOMENT.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!?
I THOUGHT I WAS DONE WITH STAFF MEETINGS FOR TODAY.
LOOKS LIKE I WAS...
...ARRRHHHH...
...WRONG...
AND I... HATE...

...BEING...
...WRONG!!!
BOY, DID YOU GUYS PICK THE WRONG PEOPLE TO FI--

UNHHH...
URKHHH...
SORRY... JON...

KIDDING, RIGHT?

STOP! STOP THIS IMMEDIATELY!
ALL UNITS, STAND DOWN!
AND SHUT DOWN THAT INFERNAL WARNING NOISE!
DOCTOR BAN-- I MEAN, HULK... I...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!?
OHHH, NO! NO, WE GET TO ASK THAT QUESTION, DOCTOR ISAACS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
BEFORE HE GOT HIS "MAD" ON, BANNER SPECULATED YOU WERE BUILDING AN ARMY HERE!

WELL... WELL, YES. THIS IS...
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND... THE MUTANTS AREN'T GOING TO STOP. THE SITUATION IS...
AN ARMY... TO FIGHT MUTANTS.
THAT'S CORRECT, UHM...SIR. IT'S...
TO RECLAIM EARTH...FOR HUMANS.
EXACTLY.
HATE ARMIES.
NOT WILD ABOUT HUMANS, EITHER.
WASN'T TOLD. WHY?
WELL, UH... DOCTOR RAPPACCINI DECIDED IT'D BE BEST IF THIS OPERATION WERE KEPT...CONFIDENTIAL... FOR NOW. YOU'D...HAVE TO ASK HER WHY.
HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

INCREDIBLE HULK #86

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
HE'S FOUND OUT! THE HULK'S FOUND OUT!
I'M AWARE OF THAT.
EVERY PSYCH PROFILE WE'VE DONE OF BOTH BANNER AND THE HULK INDICATES HE WON'T APPROVE OF OUR USING HUMAN SUBJECTS...
I'VE READ THE PROFILES.
...TO CREATE CYBORG ARMIES FOR...
I KNOW THAT, TOO.
...ATTACKING THE MUTANT--
SHUT UP, OR I'LL SHOOT YOU MYSELF.
NOW PLUG ME INTO BANDWIDTH DESIGNATED ALPHA ONE.
BANDWIDTH ALPHA ONE. YOU'RE ON, DOCTOR.
THASANEE? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
MOTHER NEEDS TO TALK TO YOU.

WHA-- YES! I...
MOTHER! WHAT'RE YOU...? HOW--?
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
MY MOTHER'S IN MY HEAD!
OH, MY FIRST WIFE USED TO SAY THAT ALL THE TIME.
I SECRETLY PUT A TRANSPONDER IN YOUR EAR WHEN YOU FIRST JOINED UP.
YOU PUT A TRANSPONDER IN MY EAR?
IN MY EAR? WITHOUT TELLING ME?
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT? THAT'S SO INTRUSIVE!
DO I EVEN NEED TO BE HERE?
THASANEE, I NEED YOU TO GET OVER YOURSELF.
AND I NEED YOU TO SAY, "DORMEZ."
"DORMAY?" WHY SHOULD I SAY "DOR—"

UNHHH...
...UNNNNNH...
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!?
BRUCE!!

BRUCE! WHAT'S HAPPENED--?!
WELL, "DORMEZ" IS FRENCH FOR "SLEEP."
I SUSPECT YOUR MOTHER MANAGED TO INTRODUCE A POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION INTO BRUCE BANNER'S SLEEPING MIND THAT--
I GET IT, MR. WIZARD! SHE SCREWED WITH HIM IN EVERY SENSE. NOW HOW DO WE WAKE HIM UP?!
I... DON'T KNOW.
AND WHY DID SHE WANT HIM UNCONSCIOUS IN THE FIRST--
BANDWIDTH ALPHA TWO. YOU'RE ON, DOCTOR.
ALL CYBER UNITS. TARGET SUBJECT BRUCE BANNER FOR IMMEDIATE DISPATCH.
WHAT ARE YOU--?
RETURN TO INACTIVE STATUS IMMEDIATELY! THAT'S A DIRECT--
--ORDERRRRR...!

ARE YOU ALL OUT OF YOUR MIND!?
GET AWAY FROM HIM!
DO NOT FIRE ON MY DAUGHTER!
REPEAT, DO NOT FIRE ON SCORPION! GET HER CLEAR BEFORE DISPATCHING BANNER!
YOU MUST BE MOVED OUT OF THE WAY.
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!
AS YOU WISH.

YOU'VE STILL GOT HUMAN PARTS! AND MY STINGER CAN STILL AFFECT THO--
UNHHH!!!
KNOCK IT OFF!
MOTHER! IF YOU CAN HEAR ME--!
SCREW THAT, OF COURSE YOU CAN HEAR ME!
STOP THIS NOW! I SWEAR, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
YOU HEAR, MOTHER! NEVER! NEVER!!!
OF COURSE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME. YOU'RE... MY LITTLE GIRL.
YOU WON'T STAY MAD AT ME. AND IF YOU DO...
I CAN FIX THAT TOO.
ALL UNITS: DISPOSE OF BANNER AT WILL.

NO!!!
NOOOO!!!
NO, DON'T!!!
NOOOOOOOOOO

BOO.

HULK SMASH!

NOW THEN...

WHAT WAS...OLD SAYING?

OH. RIGHT.

TERRA INCOGNITA

CONCLUSION

SMASH YOU ALL!
RAAARHHH!!!
IT SHOULD BE, "SMASH YOU ALL EXCEPT SCORPION WHO TRIED TO SAVE MY GREEN BUTT!"
I THOUGHT YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS! THAT MY MOTHER DID SOMETHING WHILE BANNER WAS SLEEPING TO--
BANNER SLEEPS.
HULK... NEVER DOES.
WHOA! WHOA!!!
SO...SO SHE COULDN'T PLANT A POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION... BECAUSE YOU, AS BANNER'S SUBCONSCIOUS, WOULDN'T LET HER. EVEN WHILE HE WAS SLEEPING, YOUR ALPHA BRAIN WAVE PATTERNS WERE TOO ACTIVE FOR HER TO MAKE THE COMMAND TAKE ROOT.
AND YOU WERE JUST PLAYING POSSUM NOW TO...TO...
YOU NEED TO STOP TALKING NOW.
OKAY.

HUH?!
OH, MY MOTHER'S IN SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR THIS.

NOT IMPRESSING ME!!!

C'MON, JON. YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S *WORRIED* ABOUT YOU.
CAN'T SAY HOW SHE'S GOING TO REACT TO YOUR NEW LOOK...
...BUT *ONE* FIASCO AT A *TIME*.
I JUST...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. HUMAN BEINGS FROM ALL OVER, FLEEING TO AUSTRALIA TO ESCAPE MUTANT OPPRESSION...
...ONLY TO HAVE A.I.M. USING THEM AS LAB RATS, MAKING THEM INTO AN ARMY TO... WHAT?
GO AGAINST THE MUTANTS IN ORDER TO DEFEAT THEM?
OR TO CONQUER THE WORLD FOR A.I.M., LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A *BOND* MOVIE?
WHOA!!

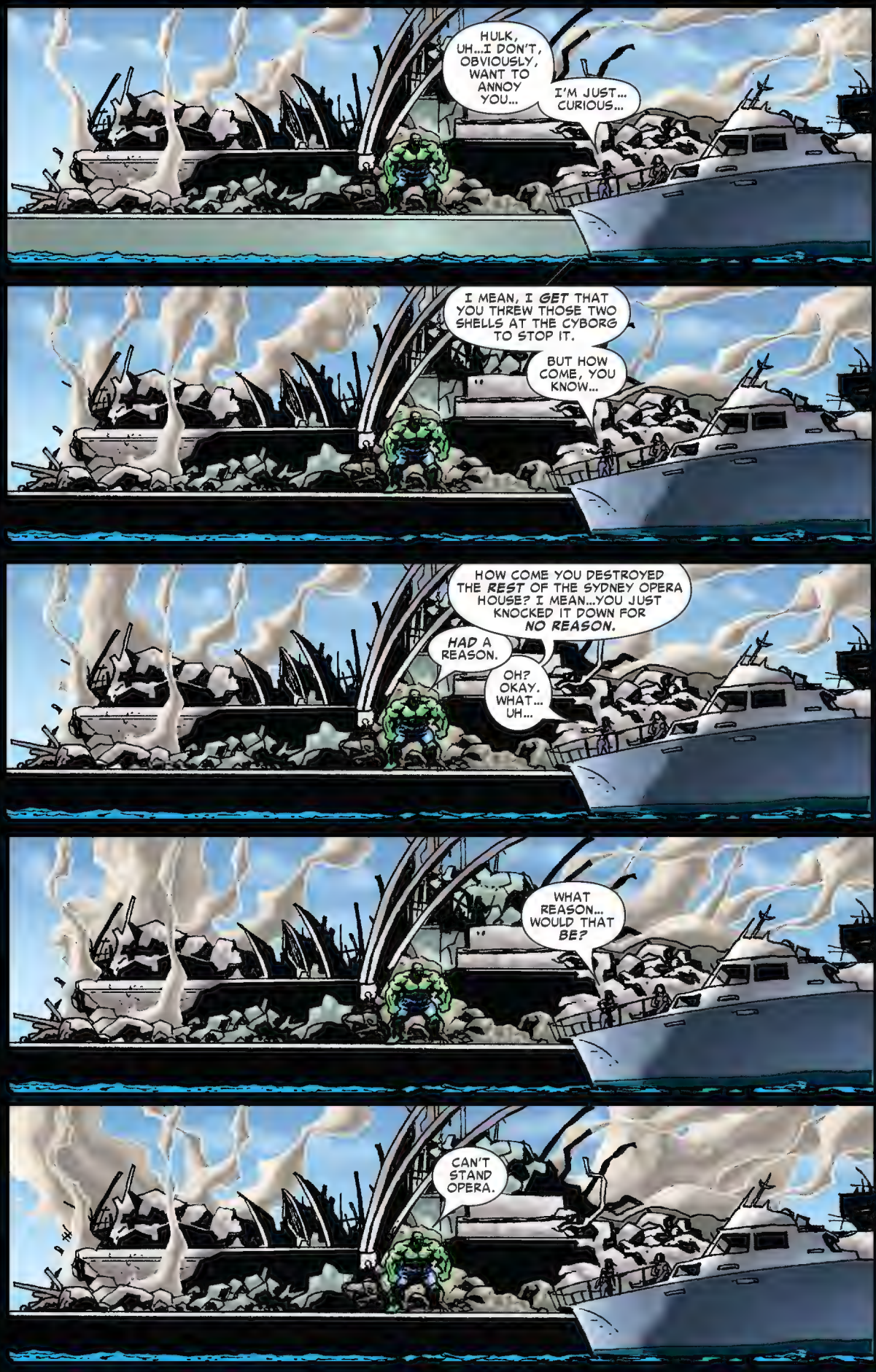
KILL YOU! K--
UNFFFF!!!

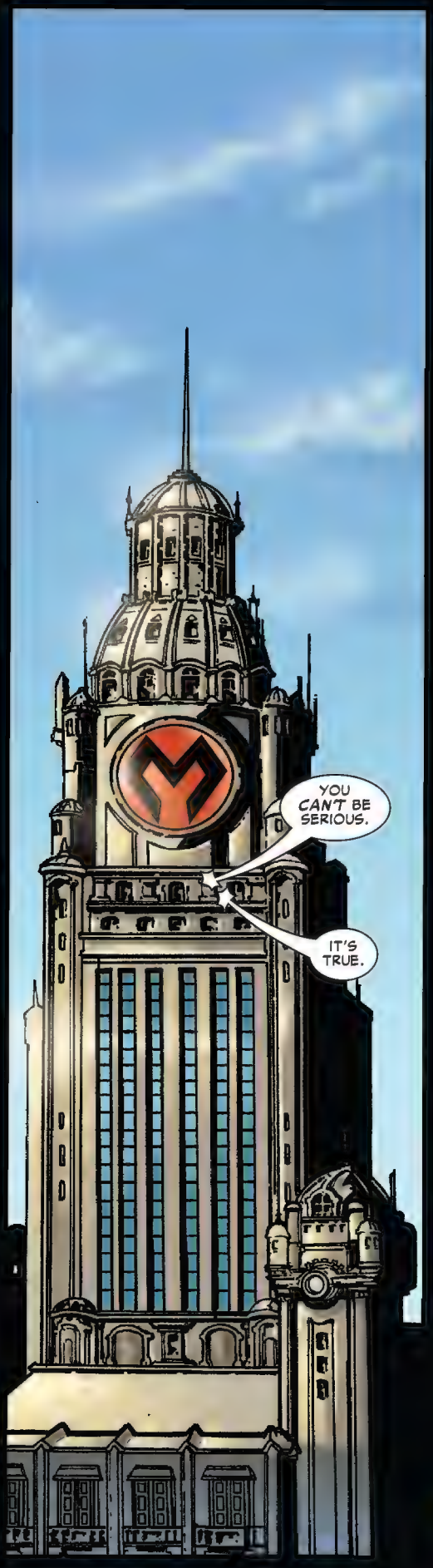
WE NEED TO REGROUP, DOCTOR!
OUR ARMY HAD TO BE KEPT UNDER WRAPS UNTIL WE WERE READY TO LAUNCH. OUR HAND'S TIPPED TOO EARLY.
MAGNETO WILL CERTAINLY KNOW BEFORE WE WERE READY TO--
I CAN ASSURE YOU, DOCTOR LAZLO, THAT I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING YOU'RE LIKELY TO SAY.
AND HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY TO OUR ASSOCIATES WHEN THEY DEMAND TO KNOW WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?
ACTUALLY, I HAVE. I'M PLANNING TO BLAME YOU.
OH, REALLY. WITH ALL RESPECT, I THINK I'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT--!
WITH ALL RESPECT...
WH--?!
...I DISAGREE.
AAAAAAA

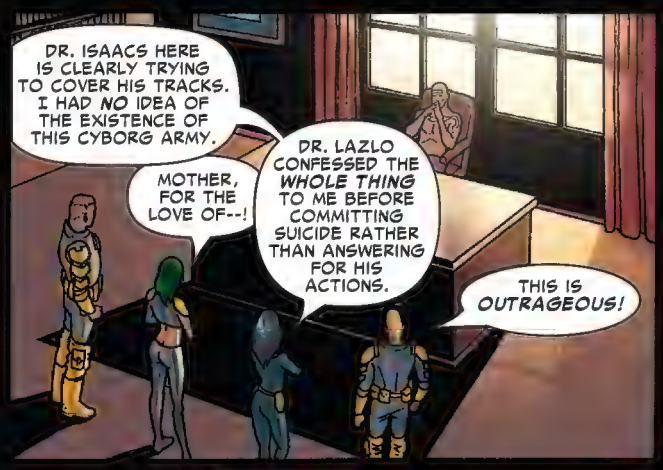
UNH....
HULK... HATES...
...STUPID... GIANT... CYBORG THINGS...
HULK HATES... AUSTRALIA.
AND MOST OF ALL...
HULK... HATES...
...PERSONAL... PRONOUNS.

EH?
ARRRHHH!!!!

THIS... ISN'T... OVER...
...


HULK, UH...I DON'T, OBVIOUSLY, WANT TO ANNOY YOU...
I'M JUST... CURIOUS...
I MEAN, I *GET* THAT YOU THREW THOSE TWO SHELLS AT THE CYBORG TO STOP IT.
BUT HOW COME, YOU KNOW...
HOW COME YOU DESTROYED THE *REST* OF THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE? I MEAN...YOU JUST KNOCKED IT DOWN FOR *NO REASON.*
HAD A REASON.
OH? OKAY. WHAT... UH...
WHAT REASON... WOULD THAT *BE?*
CAN'T STAND OPERA.


YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
IT'S TRUE.


DR. ISAACS HERE IS CLEARLY TRYING TO COVER HIS TRACKS. I HAD NO IDEA OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS CYBORG ARMY.
MOTHER, FOR THE LOVE OF--!
DR. LAZLO CONFESSED THE WHOLE THING TO ME BEFORE COMMITTING SUICIDE RATHER THAN ANSWERING FOR HIS ACTIONS.
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS!

YOU PUT THIS... THING IN MY EAR!
SIMPLY TO MAKE SURE YOU WEREN'T GETTING INTO TROUBLE.

AND YOU HAD ME PUT HIM TO SLEEP WITH A TRIGGER WORD!
YES, I PUT A FAILSAFE INTO BRUCE'S MIND...OR AT LEAST I THOUGHT I DID. AND THEN TRIED TO USE IT TO DEFUSE A TENSE SITUATION.

AND CAN YOU BLAME ME? YOU'RE A WALKING NUCLEAR BOMB WITH AN ITCHY TRIGGER FINGER, BRUCE.
YOU'VE SPENT YEARS TRYING TO CONTROL THE HULK.
CAN YOU CONDEMN ME FOR DOING NO LESS?

I WANT ALL OF YOU OUT. OUT OF THIS CITY. OFF THE CONTINENT. ALL OF YOU...
...EXCEPT HER.
YOU'RE POINTING AT... ME, RIGHT?
NO. HER.
HER.
YES.
HER, MY MOTHER.
YES. THE REST OF YOU, GET OUT.
THAT'S INSANE!!! I DON'T UNDERSTAND--?!
WHICH PART? "GET"? OR "OUT"?
BUT--
MONICA...ARE YOU CAPABLE OF RESTORING THE CYBORGS TO THEIR HUMANITY?
IT...WILL TAKE TIME, BUT YES.
GOOD. GET STARTED. EVERYONE ELSE REMOTELY CONNECTED WITH A.I.M. HAS AN HOUR TO GET GONE. SPREAD THE WORD.
NOW.
NOW!!!!

SO.
KEEPING YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE...
...AND MY ENEMIES CLOSER.
YOU'VE READ "THE ART OF WAR."
NO, I'VE SEEN "THE GODFATHER." ACTUALLY, I'M EXILING MY FRIENDS AND BEDDING MY ENEMY, SO... ANYWAY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MAGNETO? OR, MORE ACCURATELY, WHAT'S A HOLOPROJECTION OF YOURSELF DOING HERE?
YOU DON'T NEED THIS AGGRAVATION, DOCTOR. YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THOSE YOU OUSTED--EXODUS, PYRO, AND OTHERS--THEY'VE LEARNED THEIR LESSON.
ALLOW THEM TO TAKE CHARGE ONCE MORE...
...AND YOU CAN RETURN TO THE ABORIGINES, TO LIVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE UNMOLESTED.
THE HULK WILL, I ASSURE YOU, BE LEFT ALONE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WHAT DO I SAY?
I SAY...THAT I LIKE BEING IN CHARGE. I SAY I STILL HAVE THINGS I HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH. I SAY...
...STAY THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY, OR I SWEAR, I WILL COME DOWN LIKE THE FIST OF GOD ON YOUR HOUSE...
...AND MAKE THIS OVER INTO A WORLD WHERE MUTANTS AREN'T IN CHARGE.
WHAT AN INTERESTING WORLD...THAT WOULD BE.

HULK: BROKEN WORLDS BOOK ONE

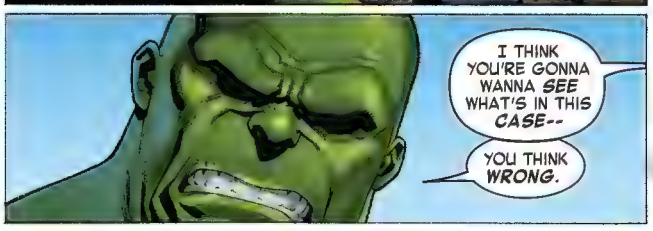
EASTERN SHORE OF AUSTRALIA
THEY JUST WON'T STOP COMING, BOSS.
WE'RE BROADCASTING RADIO MESSAGES 24/7-- GOT A WEB SITE SET UP-- WARNING PEOPLE SYDNEY HAS RUN OUT OF HOUSING-- OUR PUBLIC UTILITIES ARE COMPLETELY OVERTAXED...
...BUT WE'RE STILL GETTING A DOZEN OR SO BOATLOADS OF REFUGEES A DAY.
SEEMS HUMANS ARE MORE SCARED OF MAGNETO THAN OF DROWNING...
...OR OF YOU.
HEH.
THEIR MISTAKE.
HOUSE OF M / HULK
PUNYVILLE

BRUCE? BRUCE!
NO...

...BETTY?
MAGNETO'S PROPAGANDA SAID YOU'D KILL ANY HUMANS ON YOUR TERRITORY!
BUT I KNEW IT COULDN'T BE TRUE! I KNEW IT!

FRIEND OF YOURS...?
ER... SCORPION, BETTY ROSS. BETTY ROSS, THE SCOR--
BETTY TALBOT, AS YOU WELL KNOW.

YEAH, AS IN GLENN TALBOT, BANNER. ME.
YOUR EXPRESSION SAYS YOU'RE AS HAPPY TO SEE ME AS I AM TO SEE YOU...JUST AS I THOUGHT.
SO I BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING TO EASE THE PAIN.


I THINK YOU'RE GONNA WANNA SEE WHAT'S IN THIS CASE--
YOU THINK WRONG.

SHE STAYS WITH ME.
WAIT--! GLENN!
YOU, "MAJOR" TALBOT...

"...YOU GOTTA MAKE DO."
...BIG GREEN IDIOT. SHOULDA LISTENED TO ME...
...WITH THIS BABY, BRUCIE COULD WALTZ RIGHT INTO MAGGY'S PALACE AND SHOVE HIS STUPID PURPLE HELMET SIDEWAYS UP HIS--
PUNYVILLE
ALRIGHT, GLENN. GIVE.
YEAH, YOU BEEN MOONING OVER THAT CASE LIKE IT'S GOT THE SECRET OF LIFE IN IT.
WELL...SINCE YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN MY BEST FRIENDS IN SYDNEY FOR ALMOST FOUR HOURS, NOW... *HIC*...SURE, WHY THE HELL NOT?
KNEW MY LIFE WOULD BE WORTH SPIT IF I DEFECTED FROM MAGNETO'S ARMY WITHOUT A BARGAINING CHIP.
SO I SWIPED A... RELIC. FROM THE GOOD OLD DAYS.
WHOA... IS THAT...
THAT IS. A SUPER-POWER-SUPPRESSING INHIBITOR COLLAR. LAST KNOWN WORKING PROTOTYPE.
READY FOR MASS MANUFACTURE IN ONE--OR ANY--OF AUSTRALIA'S MANY FINE FACTORIES.
HEY! WATCH--
BUT... YOU KNOW ALL CHANGE BEGINS LOCALLY, DON'T YOU, GLENN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SNAP
HULK AND HIS GOONS KEEP US BOAT PEOPLE CROWDED HERE IN SHANTYTOWNS LIKE "PUNYVILLE."
HIGH TIME SOMEONE REMINDED HIM HE'S NO BETTER THAN THE REST OF US HOMO SAPIENS.
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANNA GIVE US A HAND...

"...SEEING AS HOW HE'S ALL ALONE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSE WITH YOUR WIFE AND ALL..."
THE WHOLE SETUP HERE... THE HUMANS DOING WHAT I SAY...NOT BEING HOUNDED ANYMORE...
...IT WAS LIKE EVERY WISH I EVER HAD HAD FINALLY COME TRUE.
ALMOST.
THEN YOU GOT HERE.
NOW IT'S... COMPLETE.
MY FATHER USED TO SAY...
...BE WARY OF THINGS THAT CONFIRM WHAT WE ALREADY BELIEVE TO BE TRUE ANYWAY.
WHAT WE WANT CLOUDS OUR JUDGMENT OF WHAT REALLY IS.
DON'T QUOTE DEAR OLD GENERAL "T-BOLT" ROSS TO ME, BETTY.
NOT AFTER HE AND HIS RIGHT-HAND STOOGE TALBOT WASTED ALL THOSE YEARS AND TAXPAYER DOLLARS TRYING TO KILL ME.
HELP YOU.
WE ONLY EVER WANTED TO HELP YOU, BRUCE.
AND D-DON'T C-CALL ME...
...BRUCE...

H-HOW DARE HE--
SHOW SOME BACKBONE, TALBOT!
KRRACK
IF YOU WON'T STAND UP FOR YOUR WOMAN--
--I WILL!
WHAT--

TRY TO TURN INTO YOUR JOLLY GREEN *COUNTERPART*, BANNER! NO?
AAAAH!
SLASH
WHATSA MATTER--TOO *INHIBITED*? HAH!
GLENN? WHO *ARE* THESE PEOPLE?
WE NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO PROPERLY INTRODUCE *OURSELVES* WHILE I WAS PSIONICALLY *PERSUADING* YOUR HUSBAND TO *TRUST* US, MRS. TALBOT.
I AM *MENTALLO*. MY AGILE FRIEND IS *WILD CHILD*.
AND I'M *ARCLIGHT*. UNDERCOVER FOR MAGNETO'S *RED GUARD*.
THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE OUT THE *HULK* WAS JUST TOO GOOD TO PASS UP--
--BUT THE ORIGINAL SANCTION WAS JUST FOR YOU TWO *DEFECTORS*!
NO!
SKWAAMM
BETTY!!
BETTY...?

BETTY.
GRRRRAAAAGGGHHHH
SMAAAM!!!
MAYBE--
MAYBE I CAN FORCE HIM BACK INTO BEING BANNER THROUGH TELEPATHY--

SHWAAAK
BAKAAAMMMM
HA HA HA HA HA
BOSS! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
THE MAN WHO HOUNDED ME MY ENTIRE LIFE GOT HIS SPIRIT BROKEN!
THE ONLY GIRL I EVER LOVED WILL NEVER LEAVE MY SIDE!
I'VE GOTTEN EVERYTHING...
...EVERYTHING I'VE EVER WANTED.

INCREDIBLE HULK #87

WHA--?
HMMM...?

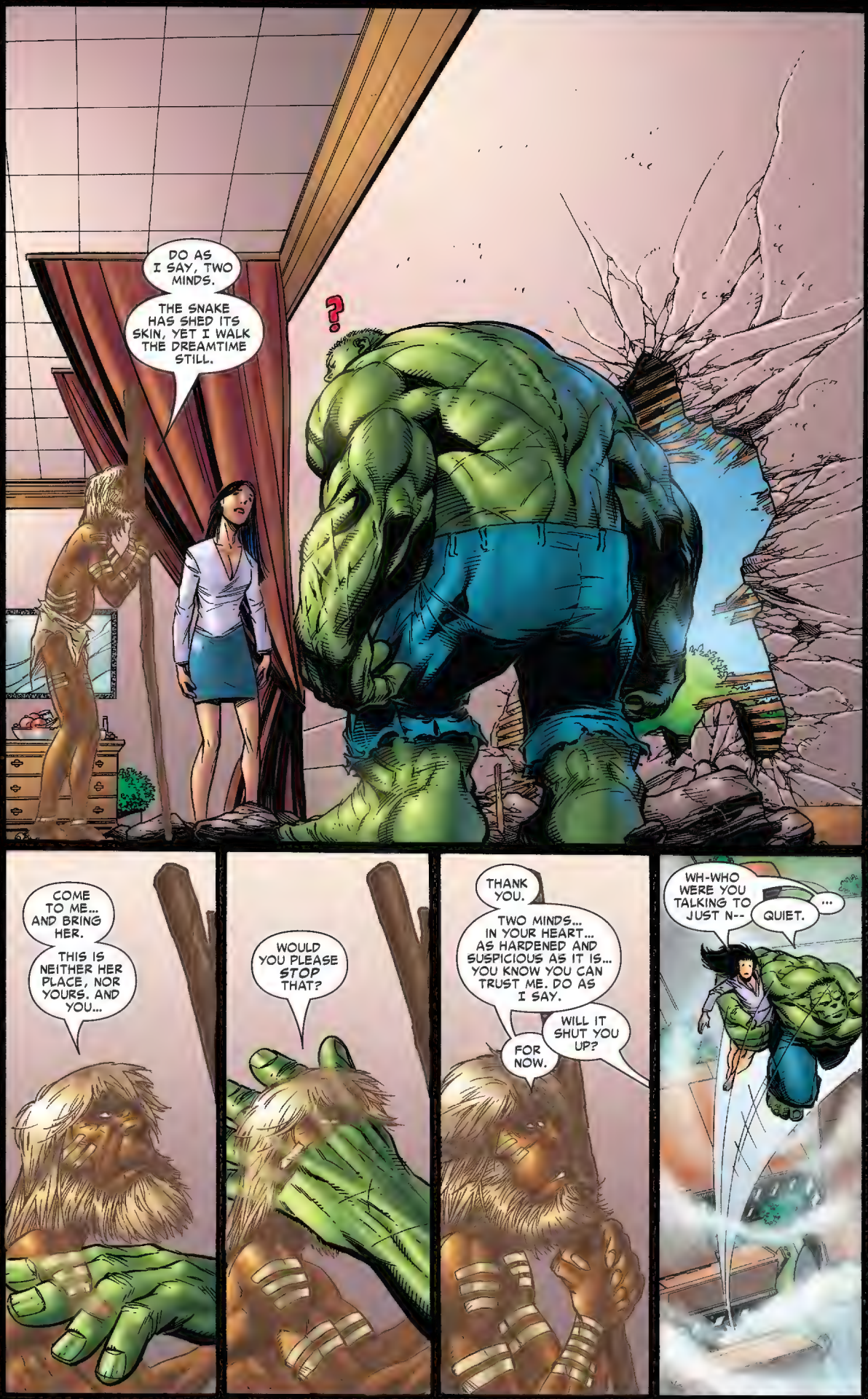
AWAKENING
YOU!!!!
I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE...
...SOMEONE I KNOW!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
WHERE THE HELL IS HERE?
THIS IS...OBVIOUSLY A BEDROOM. AND THAT IS...ALSO OBVIOUSLY... A BED.
WHICH MEANS THAT WE ARE OBVIOUSLY...
NO! WE CAN'T DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS BEYOND THE SURFACE APPEARANCE OF--
OH. MY GOD.
WHAT?
BRUCE BANNER. YOU'RE BRUCE BANNER.
HOW DID Y-- I MEAN... WHO?
BRUCE, YOU MAY NOT BE CATCHING ME AT MY BEST RIGHT NOW, BUT I...
MONICA RAPPACCINI. NAME RING A BELL?

YES. OF COURSE. YOU'RE, AH...
...THAT... ITALIAN MOVIE ACTRESS...
CLOSE. I'M A RESEARCH SCIENTIST AND, BY THE WAY, YOU AND I HAD A FLING IN COLLEGE.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. I'D HAVE REMEMBER--
I WENT BY "NICKY" OR JUST "NIC" BACK THEN. THERE WAS THIS--
WAIT. I... REMEMBER...
I'M FLATTERED.
NO, I MEAN I REMEMBER THIS--
--CONVERSATION?
YES. WE *HAD* THIS CONVERSATION. I DIDN'T REMEMBER YOU FROM COLLEGE...
AND I JOGGED YOUR MEMORY. SO THIS IS...WHAT? *DÉJÀ VU?*
NO SUCH THING. THAT'S JUST A NEUROLOGICAL ANOMALY RELATED TO THE BRAIN'S IMPROPERLY DISCHARGING ELECTRICAL--
KER-AAASH!!!
G'DAY, MATE!
YOU AND THE SHEILA JUST KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE 'EM!

ALL RIGHT...ONE OF US IS FROM OUT OF TOWN. WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHERE...
AS IF YOU DON'T KNOW!
PRETEND I DON'T. JUST FOR LAUGHS.
YOU TWO DIPSTICKS CHOSE TO TRESPASS IN THE MANSION OF JARRAH BRANDIS, THE RICHEST MAN IN SYDNEY. YOU'RE LUCKY HE'S OUT OF TOWN ON BUSINESS...
HE'D BE SPEWIN' IF HE KNEW YOU TWO HAD SNUCK IN HERE, HAVING A NAUGHTY IN HIS VERY OWN BEDROOM!
TOO RIGHT.
"SPEWIN'?"
"VERY ANGRY," I THINK.
NOW YOU TWO JUST LIE DOWN FLAT UNTIL THE POLICE SEND ROUND THE DIVVY VAN FOR YOU...
"DIVVY VAN?"
PADDY WAGON.
QUIET, YOU STUPID--!
EXCUSE ME. NO INSULTING THE LADY.
OR WHAT?
WELL, IF YOU DO, I'LL WIND UP... SPEWIN'.
AND YOU WOULDN'T LIKE ME WHEN I'M SPEWIN'.

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME! WE DON'T KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE!
SH'RIGHT! BUT WE KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
NO, YOU...
...UNHHH...
...REALLY DON'T...
DON'T START FAKING THAT YOU'RE HURTING NOW!
PUT THE CUFFS ON HIM!
THERE! THAT TAKES CARE OF--
K-CHINKT!
--THAT?
WARNED 'EM.
DIDN'T LISTEN.

NEVER...
...LISTEN!!!
BHRWRAAM!
WAAAM!
WAIT! TAKE ME WITH YOU!
DROP DEAD.
TAKE HER WITH YOU.
EH?


DO AS I SAY, TWO MINDS.
THE SNAKE HAS SHED ITS SKIN, YET I WALK THE DREAMTIME STILL.
?
COME TO ME... AND BRING HER.
THIS IS NEITHER HER PLACE, NOR YOURS. AND YOU...
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP THAT?
THANK YOU.
TWO MINDS... IN YOUR HEART... AS HARDENED AND SUSPICIOUS AS IT IS... YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST ME. DO AS I SAY.
WILL IT SHUT YOU UP?
FOR NOW.
WH-WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO JUST N--
...
QUIET.

WELL, THAT'S UNEXPECTED. AND YET...

...SOMEHOW IT'S REALLY NOT.

I KNOW SOME WOMEN ARE ATTRACTED TO POWERFUL MEN BUT, JEEZ...

DO WE HAVE *ANY* IDEA WHAT RAPPACCINI IS DOING IN AUSTRALIA? ASIDE FROM FLYING THE INCREDIBLE *QANTAS*, I MEAN?

NO. ON THE OTHER HAND...

WE'RE NOT ALONE. THERE'S A *LOT* OF DISORIENTATION, WORLDWIDE.

S.H.I.E.L.D. IS BEING FLOODED WITH CONTACTS FROM CONFUSED AGENTS WHO AREN'T WHERE THEY THINK THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.

THEORY IS THAT IT'S SOME SORT OF GLOBAL BRAINWASHING STUNT THAT FAILED SOMEHOW.

IF IT SUCCEEDED, HOW WOULD WE KNOW?

GOOD POINT.

GET ME AN AIRLIFT DOWN TO AUSTRALIA. I'M GOING AFTER MY MOTHER.

SHE'S WITH THE HULK! YOU CAN'T GO IN ALONE! YOU NEED BACK-UP!

BACKUP. TO HANDLE THE HULK.

JUST *WHAT* DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?

THREE, FOUR...

...*HUNDRED* GUYS, MAYBE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

...WHOM THE HULK WILL MOW THROUGH ANYWAY.

IF IT'S *ONLY* ME, SNEAKING IN, MAYBE WE'LL JUST BE DEALING WITH BRUCE BANNER.

AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT THAT WAY?

WHAT IF YOU FIND YOURSELF FACING DOWN THE HULK?

THEN PLACE YOUR BETS.

"WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHY WE'RE HERE?"

SHUT--

--UP, RIGHT.

GREETINGS, TWO MINDS. WE MEET AGAIN...

...FOR THE FIRST TIME.

YOU *BEHIND* THIS?

THERE IS NO "THIS," TWO MINDS. THERE IS... WHAT IS.

HI, LOOK. BEFORE GODZILLA HERE TELLS ME TO SHUT UP AGAIN, DO YOU HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHERE THE NEAREST *PHONE* IS?

OR EVEN *WHAT* A PHONE IS?

YOUR TONE IS PATRONIZING AND INSULTING.

Great.

I HAVE WALKED IN THE DREAMTIME, TWO MINDS. AS HAVE YOU...AND THE ANNOYING WOMAN.

THE DIFFERENCE IS...I KNEW IT AT THE TIME AND KNOW IT NOW. SO THIS "AWAKENING" DOES NOT CONFUSE ME.

THE GREAT SNAKE HAS SHED ITS SKIN YET AGAIN, AND LEFT YOU BEHIND.

ARE YOU SAYING WE'VE AWAKENED FROM SOME...SOME MASS HALLUCINATION? *JUST* US, OR...?

EHHH!

EHHH!

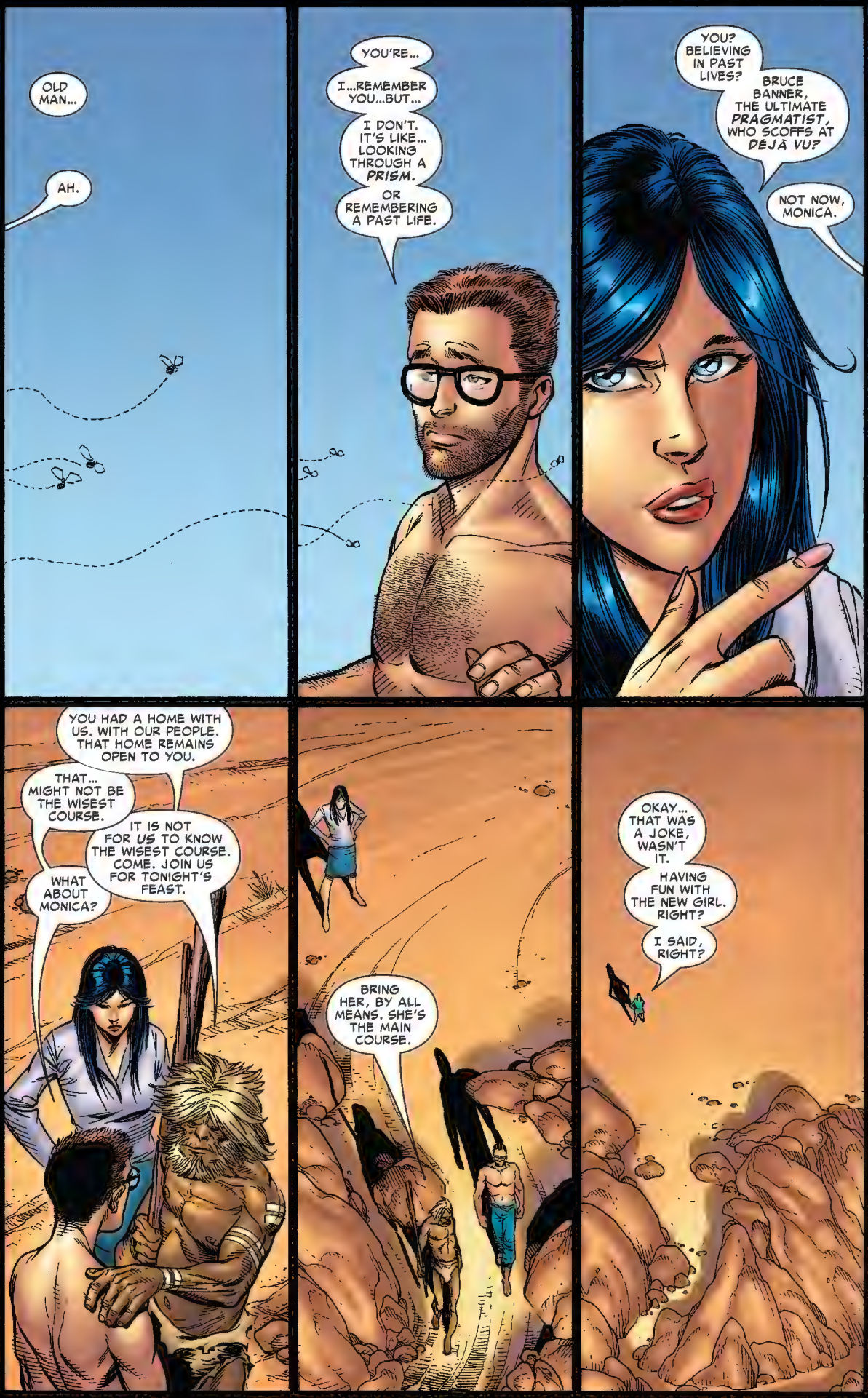
YOU MAY BE ACCUSTOMED TO BELIEVING THE WORLD CENTERS AROUND YOU...

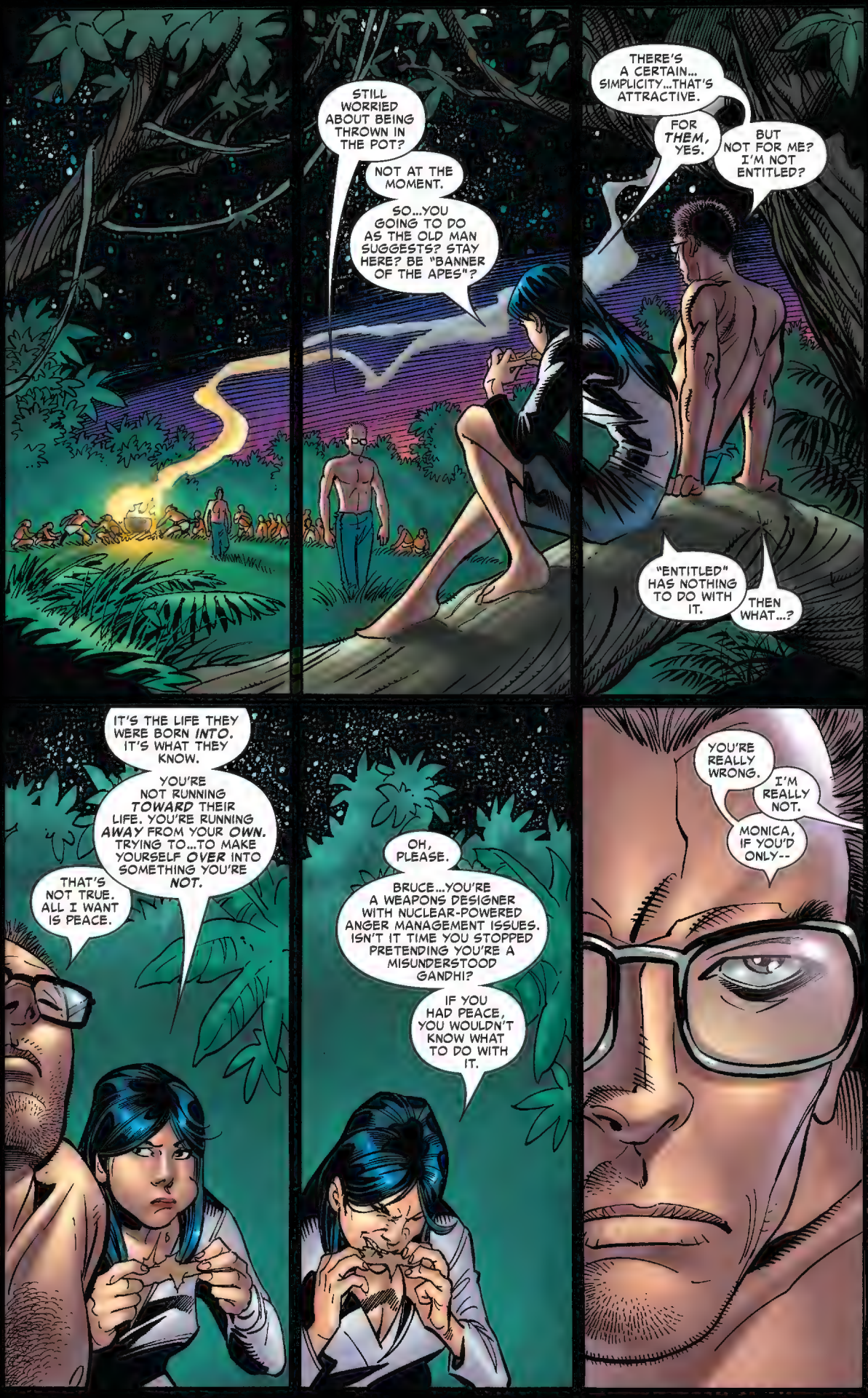
...BUT NO. THERE IS MORE IN HEAVEN AND EARTH THAN IS DREAMT OF IN YOUR PHILOSOPHY.

SNATCH!

YOU'VE READ SHAKESPEARE!

WHO?


OLD MAN...
AH.
YOU'RE...
I...REMEMBER YOU...BUT...
I DON'T. IT'S LIKE... LOOKING THROUGH A PRISM.
OR REMEMBERING A PAST LIFE.
YOU? BELIEVING IN PAST LIVES?
BRUCE BANNER, THE ULTIMATE PRAGMATIST, WHO SCOFFS AT DEJA VU?
NOT NOW, MONICA.
YOU HAD A HOME WITH US. WITH OUR PEOPLE. THAT HOME REMAINS OPEN TO YOU.
THAT... MIGHT NOT BE THE WISEST COURSE.
IT IS NOT FOR US TO KNOW THE WISEST COURSE. COME. JOIN US FOR TONIGHT'S FEAST.
WHAT ABOUT MONICA?
BRING HER, BY ALL MEANS. SHE'S THE MAIN COURSE.
OKAY... THAT WAS A JOKE, WASN'T IT.
HAVING FUN WITH THE NEW GIRL. RIGHT?
I SAID, RIGHT?


STILL WORRIED ABOUT BEING THROWN IN THE POT?
NOT AT THE MOMENT.
SO...YOU GOING TO DO AS THE OLD MAN SUGGESTS? STAY HERE? BE "BANNER OF THE APES"?
THERE'S A CERTAIN... SIMPLICITY...THAT'S ATTRACTIVE.
FOR *THEM*, YES.
BUT NOT FOR ME? I'M NOT ENTITLED?
"ENTITLED" HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
THEN WHAT...?
IT'S THE LIFE THEY WERE BORN *INTO*. IT'S WHAT THEY KNOW.
YOU'RE NOT RUNNING *TOWARD* THEIR LIFE. YOU'RE RUNNING *AWAY* FROM YOUR *OWN*. TRYING TO...TO MAKE YOURSELF *OVER* INTO SOMETHING YOU'RE *NOT*.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. ALL I WANT IS PEACE.
OH, PLEASE.
BRUCE...YOU'RE A WEAPONS DESIGNER WITH NUCLEAR-POWERED ANGER MANAGEMENT ISSUES. ISN'T IT TIME YOU STOPPED PRETENDING YOU'RE A MISUNDERSTOOD GANDHI?
IF YOU HAD PEACE, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.
YOU'RE REALLY WRONG.
I'M REALLY NOT.
MONICA, IF YOU'D ONLY--

UNH....
BRUCE?
BRUCE!!!!
HELLO, MOTHER.
BEEN A WHILE.
THASANEE!
THUD
THAT'S SCORPION TO YOU.
HOW DID YOU--? WAIT. LET ME GUESS.
BRUCE EMITS GAMMA RADIATION...NOT HARMFUL AMOUNTS, BUT ENOUGH TO BE TRACEABLE...
AND JUST NOW, YOU TAPPED INTO THOSE EMISSIONS... AND TURNED IT INTO A SORT OF GAMMA TOXIN THAT KNOCKED HIM OUT.
BRILLIANT AS ALWAYS, MOTHER.

EVERYONE, STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
HE'LL RECOVER! I'M ONLY HERE FOR *HER!*
DO AS SHE *SAYS!* NO SENSE IN ANY OF YOU BEING HURT BY THIS... THIS MADWOMAN.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! ONE OF AIM'S TOP EVIL SCIENTISTS!
OH, THASANEE. "GOOD?" "EVIL?" YOU'RE STILL USING SUCH TRIVIAL, CONFINING LABELS?
HAVE YOU LEARNED NOTHING?
FROM *YOU?* I'M PROUD TO SAY *YES:* NOT A THI--
FWOK!
UNHHHHH!!!
I CARE LITTLE FOR THE WOMAN... BUT HE IS ONE OF OURS. YOU MUST LEAVE.

I WAS GOING TO! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO--

WHOA! NICE, MOTHER.

DID YOU EXPECT I WAS JUST GOING TO STAND BY AND LET YOU DRAG ME AWAY?

STAND BY OR DON'T. IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

GET... OUT...

HOW DID--? MY STINGER SHOULD HAVE PUT YOU UNDER FOR--

GET OUUUUUT!!!

WHAT'S... HAPPEN... ING...?

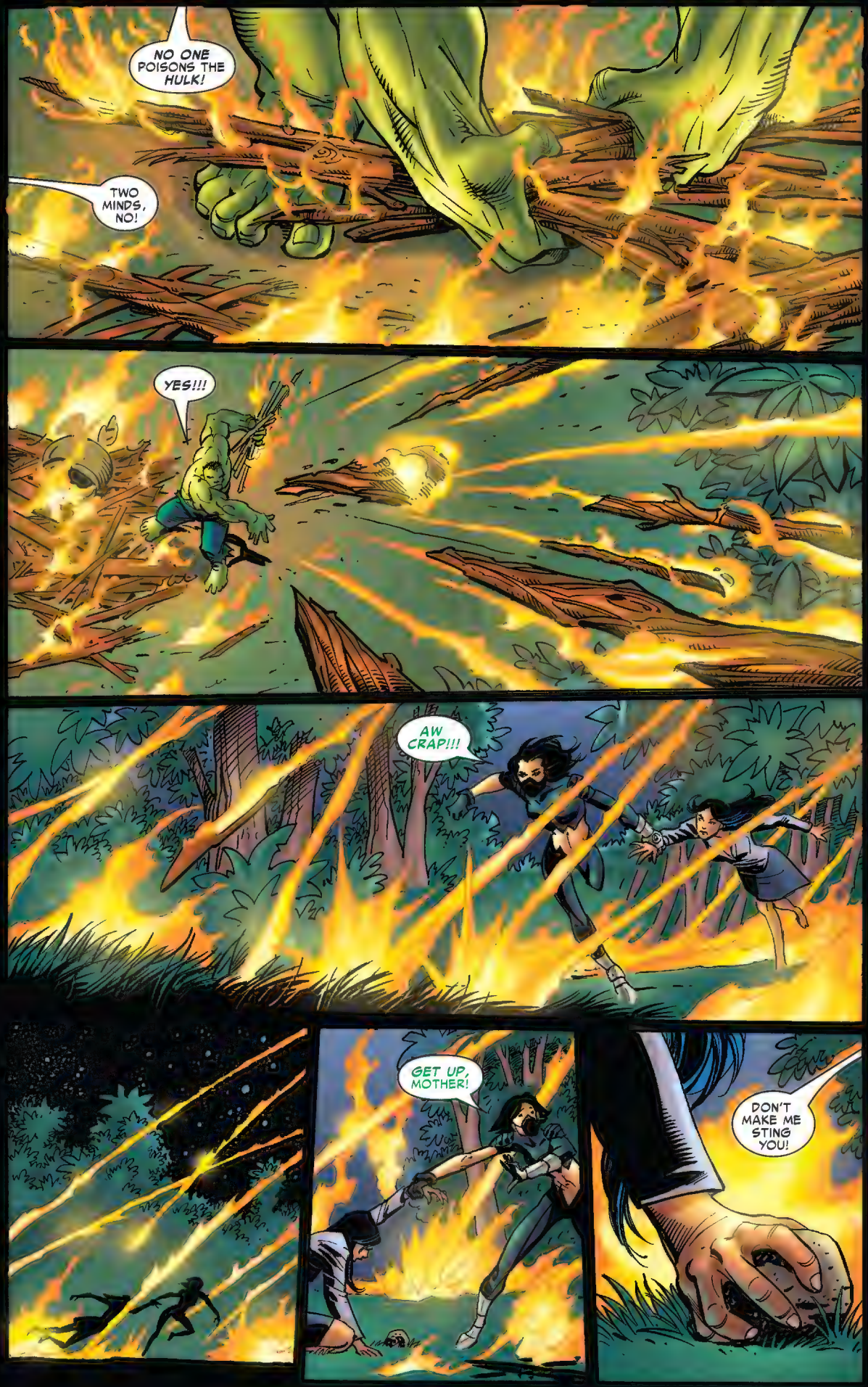
SHE'S POISONED YOU! BUT YOU CAN FIGHT IT OFF!

MAYBE! BUT WITH ANY LUCK, WE'RE LONG GONE BY THE TIME HE DOES!

MAYBE NOT...!

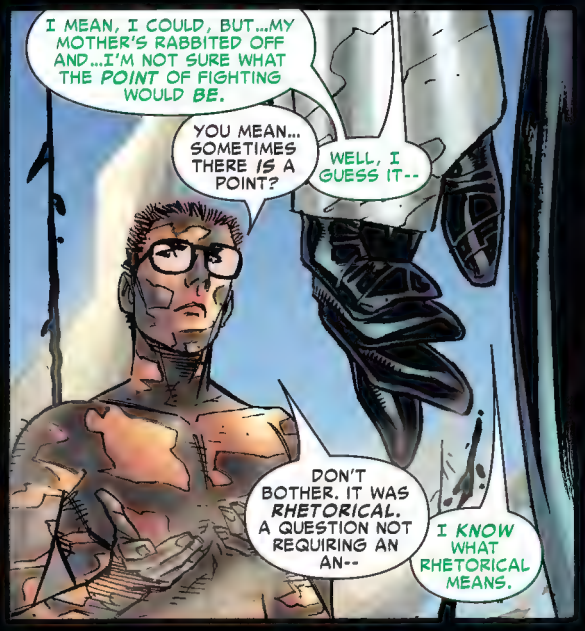
AAARRHHHH!!

OUT OF THE WAY! MOVE!
UNFFF!!
LET THEM GO, TWO MINDS! IT IS NONE OF--
No one... poisons... me...
THEY ARE NO LONGER A THREAT TO--


NO ONE POISONS THE HULK!
TWO MINDS, NO!
YES!!!
AW CRAP!!!
GET UP, MOTHER!
DON'T MAKE ME STING YOU!

FWACK!!
OOOOOFF!!
UNHHH!!!
KOFF!
KOFF!
DOCTOR RAPPACCINI...
GREETINGS FROM A.I.M. HEADQUARTERS. TIME TO COME HOME.
OH, THANK GOD! HOW DID YOU--?
SCORPION TRACKED YOU DOWN. WE SIMPLY FOLLOWED HER.
WHAT ABOUT SCORPION? SHE'S A S.H.I.E.L.D. OPERATIVE, BUT SHE'S YOUR DAUGHTER. SHOULD WE--?
IF SHE'S DESERVING OF BEING MY DAUGHTER... SHE'LL FIND A WAY TO SURVIVE.
IF NOT... THEN LET HER BURN.

HELLO?
ANYONE THERE?
OH. HI.
TOOK REFUGE IN THE CAVE, EH? GOOD CHOICE.
I'VE HIDDEN IN A CAVE OR TWO IN MY LIFETIME.
YEAH. SO, UH...
ARE WE GONNA, Y'KNOW...
FIGHT SOME MORE?


I MEAN, I COULD, BUT...MY MOTHER'S RABBITED OFF AND...I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE *POINT* OF FIGHTING WOULD *BE*.
YOU MEAN... SOMETIMES THERE *IS* A POINT?
WELL, I GUESS IT--
DON'T BOTHER. IT WAS *RHETORICAL*. A QUESTION NOT REQUIRING AN AN--
I *KNOW* WHAT RHETORICAL MEANS.

WHERE'S THE ABORIGINES?
GONE. ALONG WITH THEIR FOREST.
VANISHED LIKE A FAST-FADING DREAM.
ARE YOU... GOING TO *LOOK* FOR THEM? I MEAN...I THINK THEY *LIKED* YOU...

NO.
THEY LIKED...WHAT I *COULD* BE. WHAT I PRETEND I WANT TO BE.
NOBODY LIKES WHAT I AM.
NOT EVEN ME.

OKAY, NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING ALL "PITY ME."
NO. SIMPLY *HONEST*.
I'VE SPENT MY LIFE TELLING MYSELF THAT EVERYTHING *WRONG* WITH ME IS IN THE HULK. AND THE HULK, WELL...HE HATES DISHONESTY.
HE ALWAYS SAYS I'M WEAK. PUNY.
MAYBE IT'S TIME... TO LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS. MAYBE IT'S TIME...

...FOR BANNER TO PUT ASIDE CHILDISH DREAMS...AND JUST BE...
...LEFT ALONE.

END.

NEW X-MEN #16

THE WORLD WE KNEW...

Born with genetic mutations that give them abilities beyond those of normal humans, mutants are the next stage in evolution. As such, they were feared and hated. But a group of mutants known as the X-MEN fought for the safety of mutants and peaceful co-existence between mutant and humankind. Their headquarters also served as a school for the next generation of mutants. These students trained in squads, and two squads, the NEW MUTANTS and the HELLIONS, frequently clashed in training exercises and personal matters. And then the world burned white...

HOUSE OF M

NEW MEN

ACADEMY X

THE WORLD WE NOW LIVE IN...

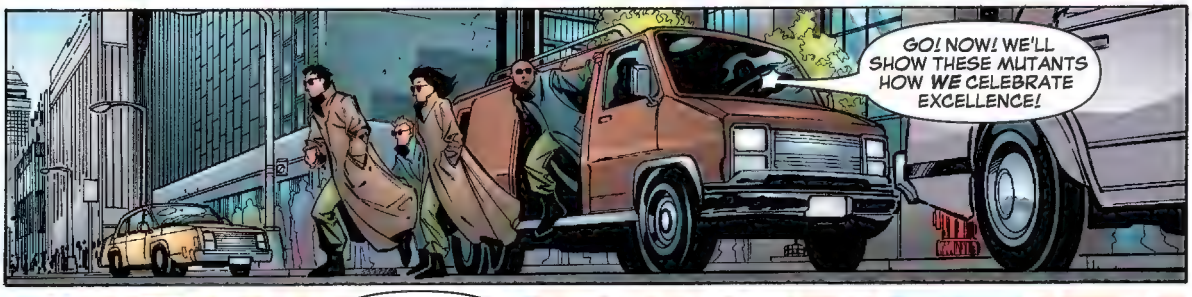
The world has been remade. In the new world, ERIK MAGNUS, the man known as MAGNETO, won his war in defense of mutant-kind. He has made a better life for all mutants, or Homo Superior, and the world is under his control. Homo Superior live ideal lives and outnumber their genetic predecessors, Homo Sapiens. The remaining Homo Sapiens must live in a world now dominated by mutants. Welcome to the HOUSE OF M.

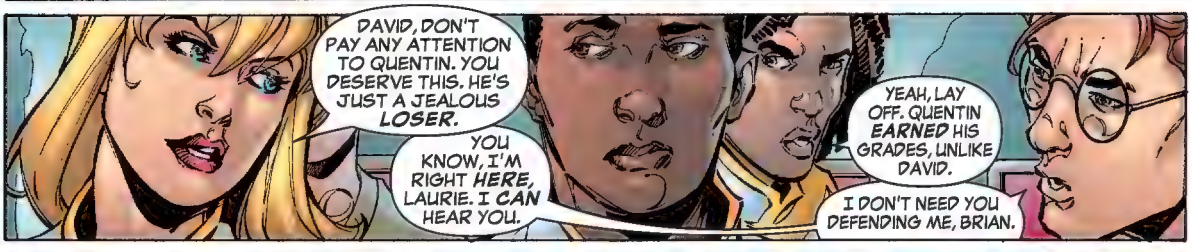
NEW YORK
TWENTY YEARS AGO, HOMO SUPERIOR FINALLY CRAWLED OUT FROM UNDER THE OPPRESSION OF HOMO SAPIENS.
THIS WAS DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF MANY. BUT THEY WERE LED BY ONE. MAGNETO.
THE WORLD NEEDS MUTANTS OF GREAT CALIBER. BRILLIANT MINDS. BRILLIANT SOULS. BRILLIANT LEADERS. LIKE MAGNETO.
AND THAT IS WHY WE FOUNDED THE NEW MUTANT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE.
NML
YOU'RE NOT HERE TO LEARN TO FIGHT. THE FIGHT IS OVER. THE WORLD IS AT PEACE. YOU'RE HERE NOW TO LEARN HOW TO LEAD.

AND THIS YEAR, SO MANY OF YOU TOOK GREAT STEPS TOWARDS BECOMING THE VISIONARIES OF TOMORROW.
THE ONES WHO WILL CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR HOMO SUPERIOR AND HOMO SAPIEN.

WHEN DO WE MAKE OUR MOVE?
SOON.
TODAY WE CELEBRATE PRIZEGIVING. A DAY FOR EXCELLENCE AMONG THE NEW MUTANTS TO BE RECOGNIZED.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BOXED ME OUT, DAVID.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE UPSET, QUENTIN. YOU'RE STILL SALUTATORIAN.
BITE ME.


GO! NOW! WE'LL SHOW THESE MUTANTS HOW WE CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE!


DAVID, DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO QUENTIN. YOU DESERVE THIS. HE'S JUST A JEALOUS LOSER.
YOU KNOW, I'M RIGHT HERE, LAURIE. I CAN HEAR YOU.
YEAH, LAY OFF. QUENTIN EARNED HIS GRADES, UNLIKE DAVID.
I DON'T NEED YOU DEFENDING ME, BRIAN.

THESE KIDS HAVE POWERS. SO DON'T WAIT TOO LONG. AS SOON AS YOU'RE CLOSE TO THE STUDENTS, DETONATE YOURSELF.

HEY, WHAT'S THAT?
NO NEW MUTANTS! NO NEW MUTANTS!
EVERYONE SCATTER! I'LL MIND-CONTROL THEM.
NO! THEY MUST BE IMMUNE TO MY POWER.
DOYLE, DO IT NOW!
SORRY TO RUIN YOUR BIG MOMENT, GUYS...

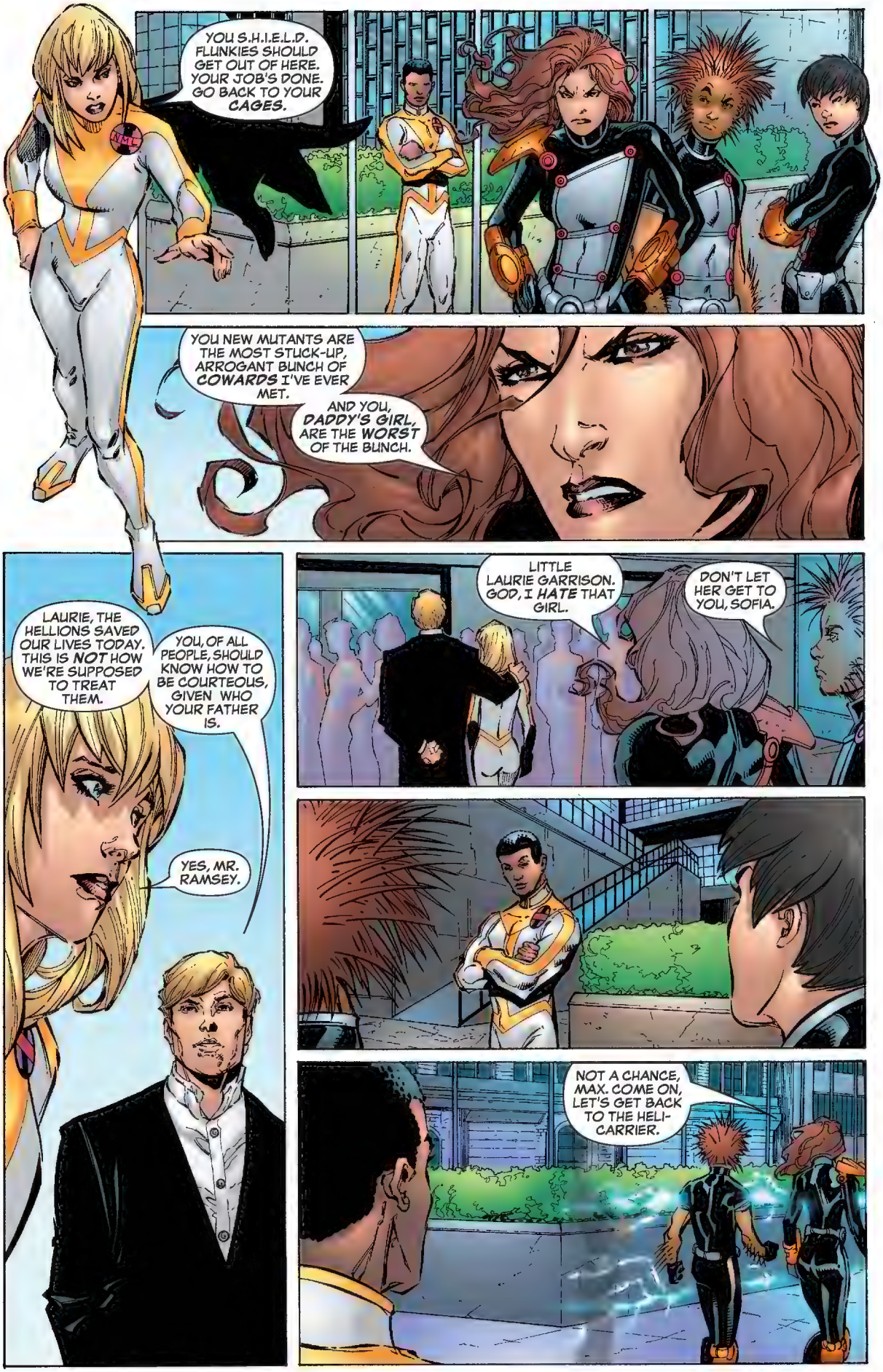
HOUSE DIVIDED
PART 1 of 4
...BUT IF ANYONE'S GONNA MAKE THE NEW MUTANTS LOOK BAD, IT'S GONNA BE US!
FOCUS, HELLIONS! THIS IS NOT A DRILL!
UNDERSTOOD, AGENT MOONSTAR.
I KNOW THE HEADMASTER, AND SHAN COY MANH IS NOT GOING TO LET HER KIDS FIGHT.
IT'S ALL UP TO JUNIOR S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS.

I WON'T LET THE SINS OF JAPAN GO UNPUNISHED!
THEY SHOULD'VE SENT THE RED GUARD AFTER ME. NOT A BUNCH OF CHILDREN.
TING!
TING!
I SEE FIFTEEN SUICIDE BOMBERS, GUYS. LET'S GET TO WORK. SYNCH, GET ON THE GROUND. HELP YOURSELF TO SOME POWERS.
DONE, SCION. THIS PLACE HAS DOZENS OF POWERS FOR ME TO SYNCH UP WITH.
I'M PICKING UP NOTHING FROM THESE GUYS. I CAN'T GET ANY OF THEIR SKILLS, THEIR TRAINING, THEIR LANGUAGES... NOTHING. THEY MUST BE IMMUNE TO MENTAL POWERS.
BRIAN, GIRLS...WE'RE ALL USELESS HERE.
MY POWER ISN'T MENTAL, DAVID. IT'S PHEROMONES. I CAN AFFECT THESE GUYS.
BUT WE'RE NOT COMBAT-TRAINED, LAURIE. WE'RE IN A LEADERSHIP PROGRAM. LET THE HELLIONS HANDLE THIS.
I'VE GOT YOU COVERED. ONE MERCURY WALL MADE TO ORDER.
EVERYONE, GET BEHIND CESSILY! STAY OUT OF THE FIGHT.
KRAKOOM!

SO, WHAT-- ARE WE JUST GOING TO RUN AND HIDE?
I DON'T THINK SO. THEY'RE, LIKE, BLOWIN' UP OUR SCHOOL!
LOOK, SOORAYA AND JUBILEE ARE PROTECTING THEMSELVES!
SOORAYA AND JUBILEE NEVER DO WHAT THEY'RE TOLD AND THEY'RE GOING TO GET THEMSELVES KILLED!
KRA KOOM!
KSSSH!
LOOKS LIKE THE NEW MUTANTS ARE RUNNING SCARED!
AND THESE CLOWNS ARE GOING OFF LIKE FIRECRACKERS, GUYS. SO LET'S WORK FAST.
SURGE, YOU GOT THIS?
FAST? I CAN DO FAST.
EXCUSE ME, SAPIEN.
I'LL TAKE THAT, THANK YOU.
THESE GUYS WON'T BE BLOWING ANYTHING UP. BUT THERE ARE STILL A COUPLE LEFT.
NICE WORK, NORIKO.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT. NO ONE GETS AWAY!
WIND DANCER, GET THAT GUY AND THE ESCAPE VEHICLE!
I'M NOT PLANNING ON LEAVING. GONNA TAKE YOU WITH ME, HOMO DETRITUS!
WHOOO
CLCK
OOSH!
KRA KOOM!
MY TURN NOW! YOU WON'T TAKE ME IN!
NO NEW MUTANTS!
AAAGGH!
FFT!
FFT!
NOW YOU KNOW WHY THEY CALL ME QUILL.
NO DYING FOR YOUR CAUSE TODAY. HOW 'BOUT A LITTLE QUESTIONING INSTEAD?

WELL DONE, HELLIONS. EXCELLENT FIRST MISSION.
AGENT MOONSTAR, A WORD PLEASE.
CAN WE MAKE THIS QUICK? I'M A LITTLE BUSY.
THIS WAS A FIRST MISSION FOR YOUR TEAM? THE SAFETY OF MY KIDS AND MY SCHOOL WASN'T WORTH FULLY-TRAINED AGENTS?
HEADMASTER MANH. THE HELLIONS ARE THE ELITE SQUAD OF TRAINEES AT S.H.I.E.L.D.
AND THEY GOT THE JOB DONE. WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOUR GROUP OF SO-CALLED "FUTURE LEADERS."
BY THE WAY, HEARD YOUR SPEECH. THE GOOD OF SAPIENS? BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY.
S.H.I.E.L.D. IS MONITORING OUR SCHOOL NOW? WONDERFUL.
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, AGENT MOONSTAR. YOU AND YOUR KIDS CAN GO NOW.
NO NEED TO THANK US, EVERYONE. WE KNOW YOU ONLY TRAIN FOR TALKING AND SIGNING PAPERS. LEAVE THE FIGHTING TO THE REAL MUTANTS.
LISTEN, DORKUS. SAVOR THIS MOMENT. BECAUSE SOON WE'LL BE RUNNING THE WORLD AND YOU'LL EITHER BE GUARDING IT OR SWEEPING IT UP.
LET IT GO, SOORAYA. OTHER THAN BEING MILDLY CUTE, HE ISN'T WORTH OUR TIME.
I CAN'T. HE'S SO SMUG, JUBILEE.
BUT YEAH...HE IS KINDA CUTE. WHY ARE THE CUTE ONES ALWAYS SUCH JERKS?
WAY OF THE WORLD, GIRLFRIEND. WAY OF THE WORLD.


YOU S.H.I.E.L.D. FLUNKIES SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE. YOUR JOB'S DONE. GO BACK TO YOUR CAGES.
YOU NEW MUTANTS ARE THE MOST STUCK-UP, ARROGANT BUNCH OF COWARDS I'VE EVER MET.
AND YOU, DADDY'S GIRL, ARE THE WORST OF THE BUNCH.
LAURIE, THE HELLIONS SAVED OUR LIVES TODAY. THIS IS NOT HOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TREAT THEM.
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, SHOULD KNOW HOW TO BE COURTEOUS, GIVEN WHO YOUR FATHER IS.
YES, MR. RAMSEY.
LITTLE LAURIE GARRISON. GOD, I HATE THAT GIRL.
DON'T LET HER GET TO YOU, SOFIA.
NOT A CHANCE, MAX. COME ON, LET'S GET BACK TO THE HELI-CARRIER.

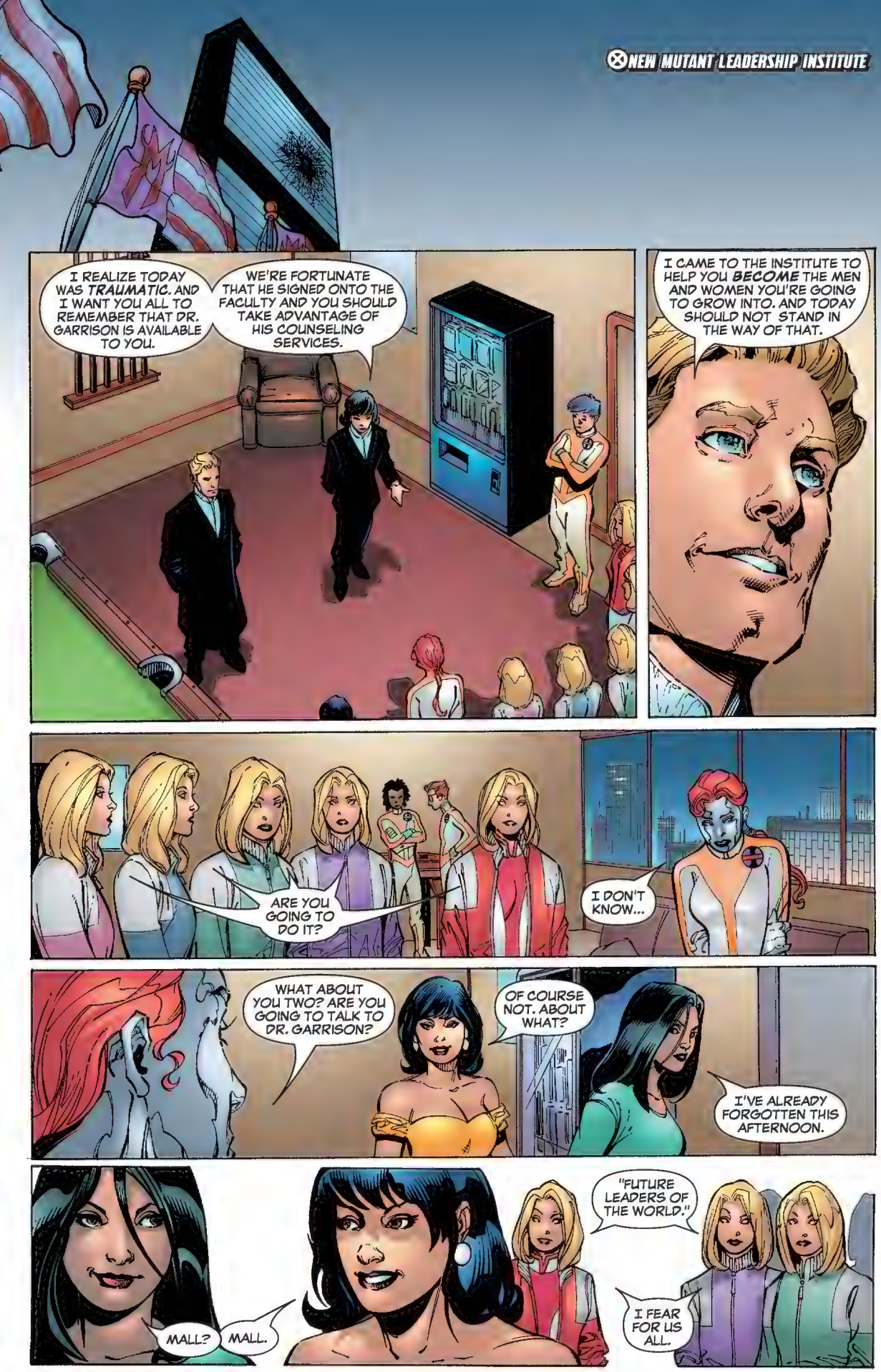
DID ANYONE SEE YOU COME BACK HERE?
PLEASE. ME OF THE SUPERSPEED? DID ANYONE SEE YOU?
NO. THEY'RE ALL TOO BUSY THROWING DOWN WITH ONE ANOTHER.
ARE YOU OKAY, DAVID? YOU DIDN'T GET HURT DURING ALL OF THAT?
I'M FINE.
WHAT? DON'T LIKE HAVING TO BE SAVED BY YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
NO, I'M FINE WITH THAT, NORIKO. I JUST DON'T LIKE BEING SAVED BY THE HELLIONS.
AND I DON'T LIKE YOU BEING A HELLION. YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED HERE AT THE INSTITUTE.
DAVID, I HAVE ELECTRICITY AND SUPERSPEED. I WAS BORN TO WORK FOR S.H.I.E.L.D.
BESIDES, YOU'VE SEEN WHAT LITTLE TACT I HAVE. WHAT KIND OF DIPLOMAT WOULD I MAKE?
A CUTE ONE.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
HOW CAN I ASK MY HELLIONS TO DO THIS?
THAT'S FOR YOU TO FIGURE OUT, AGENT MOONSTAR. BUT THE ASSIGNMENT IS THEIRS.
OF ALL OUR TRAINING SQUADS, THE HELLIONS HAVE THE MOST PROMISE. AND I NEED MY OPERATIVES TO TRACK DOWN JAMES.
SHE WON'T DO THIS, MYSTIQUE. I GUARANTEE IT.
THEN PERHAPS A CHANGE OF PLAN IS IN ORDER.

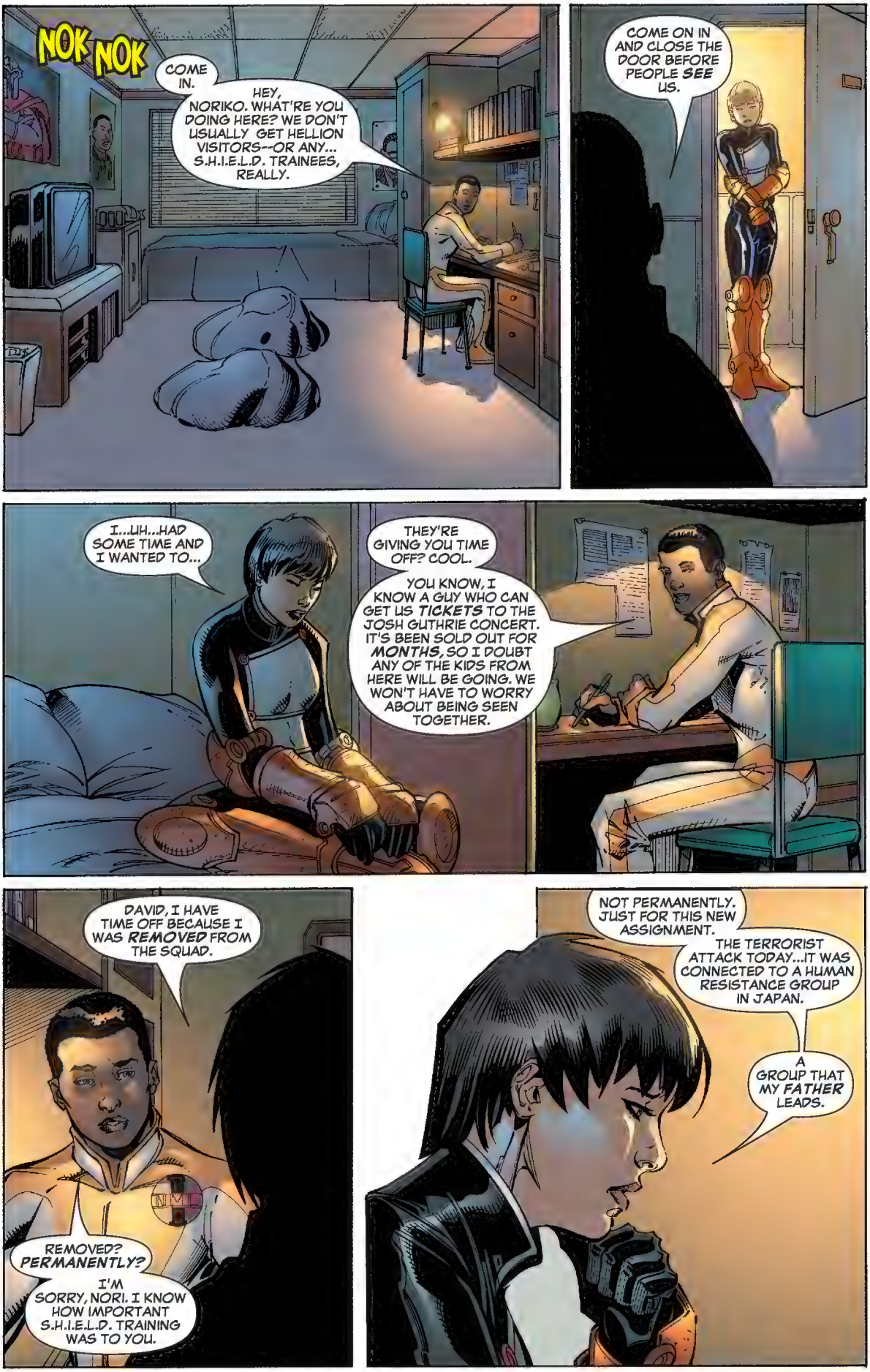
OOOH, THAT'S GOTTA HURT!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN WATCH THIS GARBAGE.
BUT THIS GUY IS COOL, SOFIA. HE'S OUR AGE AND HE'S AS GOOD AS SPIDER-MAN IN THE RING. IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS, I GUARANTEE YOU HE'LL BE THE CHAMPION.
JULIAN, IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS, YOU'RE GOING TO BE A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT. I THINK YOU WIN.
I DON'T KNOW...SOMETIMES I WISH I COULD USE MY POWERS AND NOT HAVE IT BE A CASE OF LIFE OR DEATH.
WE WON TODAY, JULIAN. WE DID GOOD.
YOU COULD HAVE DIED, BEAUTIFUL.
BUT I DIDN'T.
NOK NOK
SOFIA, JULIAN... TEAM MEETING IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM. NOW.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS. THE HELLIONS ARE GETTING A NEW TEAM MEMBER. MEET ILLYANA RASPUTIN. AN ACCOMPLISHED TELEPORTER. FIELD NAME: MAGIK.
NO OFFENSE, AGENT MOONSTAR, BUT DID YOU SEE US OUT THERE TODAY? WE DON'T NEED A NEW TEAM MEMBER. ESPECIALLY NOT SOME KID WHO NEEDS BABYSITTING.
WHO'RE YOU CALLING A KID?
GET BACK TO US WHEN YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO STAY OUT AFTER DARK.
I'LL SHOW YOU DARK.
ZWISH
WHAT THE--? WHERE ARE WE?
ONE OF MANY REALMS SOME PEOPLE WOULD CALL HELL.
S-SERIOUSLY?
NO, MORON. IT'S THE BASE OF AN ACTIVE VOLCANO. BUT IF I SENT YOU HERE BY YOURSELF, YOU'D NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

SATISFIED?
OKAY, GUYS. MAGIK'S IN.
EVERYONE SETTLE DOWN. MAGIK HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE SQUAD BECAUSE WE HAVE A NEW ASSIGNMENT AND SURGE WILL NOT BE JOINING YOU.
WHAT? WHY?
AS YOU KNOW, TODAY'S SUICIDE BOMBERS MADE REFERENCE TO JAPAN.
YEAH. WHAT WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
WE KNOW WHO SOME OF THE KEY MEMBERS ARE, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE IN JAPAN THEY'RE LOCATED. IT WILL BE YOUR JOB TO FIND THEM AND SHUT THEM DOWN.
WE BELIEVE THEY'RE CONNECTED TO A HUMAN RESISTANCE GROUP OVER THERE. EMPEROR SUNFIRE IS NOT PLEASED WITH THE TROUBLE THEY ARE CAUSING HIM.
WAIT, I DON'T GET THIS! I KNOW EMPEROR SUNFIRE. AND I SPEAK JAPANESE. I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO GO!
JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THE FOLDER, NORIKO.
THEIR LEADER IS SEIJI ASHIDA. YOUR FATHER.

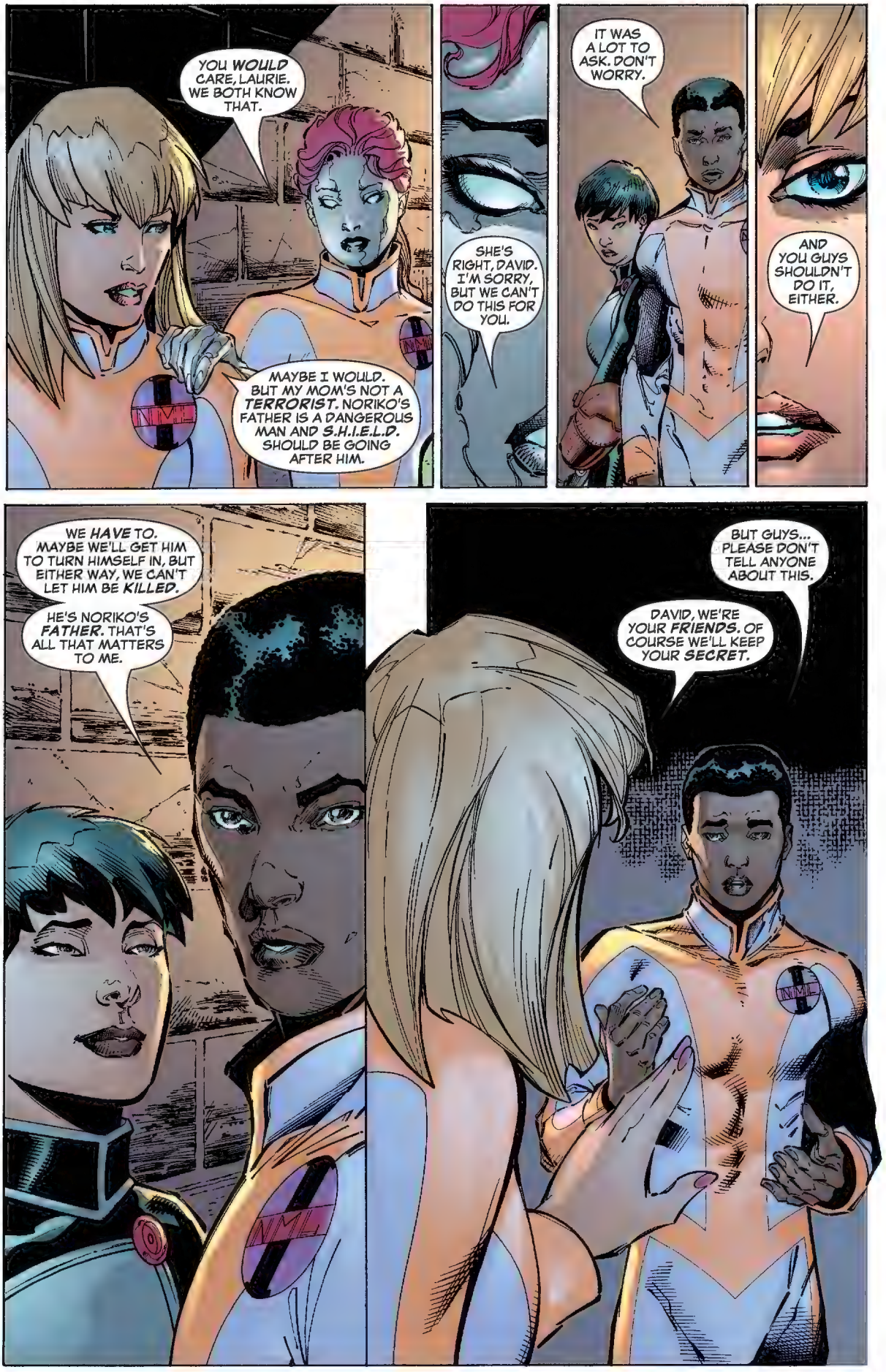

I REALIZE TODAY WAS TRAUMATIC. AND I WANT YOU ALL TO REMEMBER THAT DR. GARRISON IS AVAILABLE TO YOU.
WE'RE FORTUNATE THAT HE SIGNED ONTO THE FACULTY AND YOU SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS COUNSELING SERVICES.
I CAME TO THE INSTITUTE TO HELP YOU BECOME THE MEN AND WOMEN YOU'RE GOING TO GROW INTO. AND TODAY SHOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF THAT.
ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT?
I DON'T KNOW...
WHAT ABOUT YOU TWO? ARE YOU GOING TO TALK TO DR. GARRISON?
OF COURSE NOT. ABOUT WHAT?
I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN THIS AFTERNOON.
MALL?
MALL.
"FUTURE LEADERS OF THE WORLD."
I FEAR FOR US ALL.

I WOULDN'T TRUST GARRISON IF I WERE YOU.
WE TRUST HIM MORE THAN WE TRUST YOU, QUENTIN.
DON'T YOU GET IT? NOBODY HERE LIKES YOU.
I LIKE YOU.
YEAH. GREAT NEWS, BRIAN. I MAY WEEP WITH JOY. NOW SHUT UP AND LOOK OVER THERE.
WHAT'S NORIKO ASHIDA DOING HERE?
HEY. IS DAVID AROUND?
I THINK HE'S IN HIS ROOM. DOWN THE HALL. FIRST DOOR ON THE LEFT.
I REMEMBER.
WHY'D YOU TELL HER WHERE DAVID WAS, CESSILY?
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A STATE SECRET, BRIAN. BESIDES, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? THROW HER OUT?
205
WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE WANTS?
I HAVE NO IDEA.

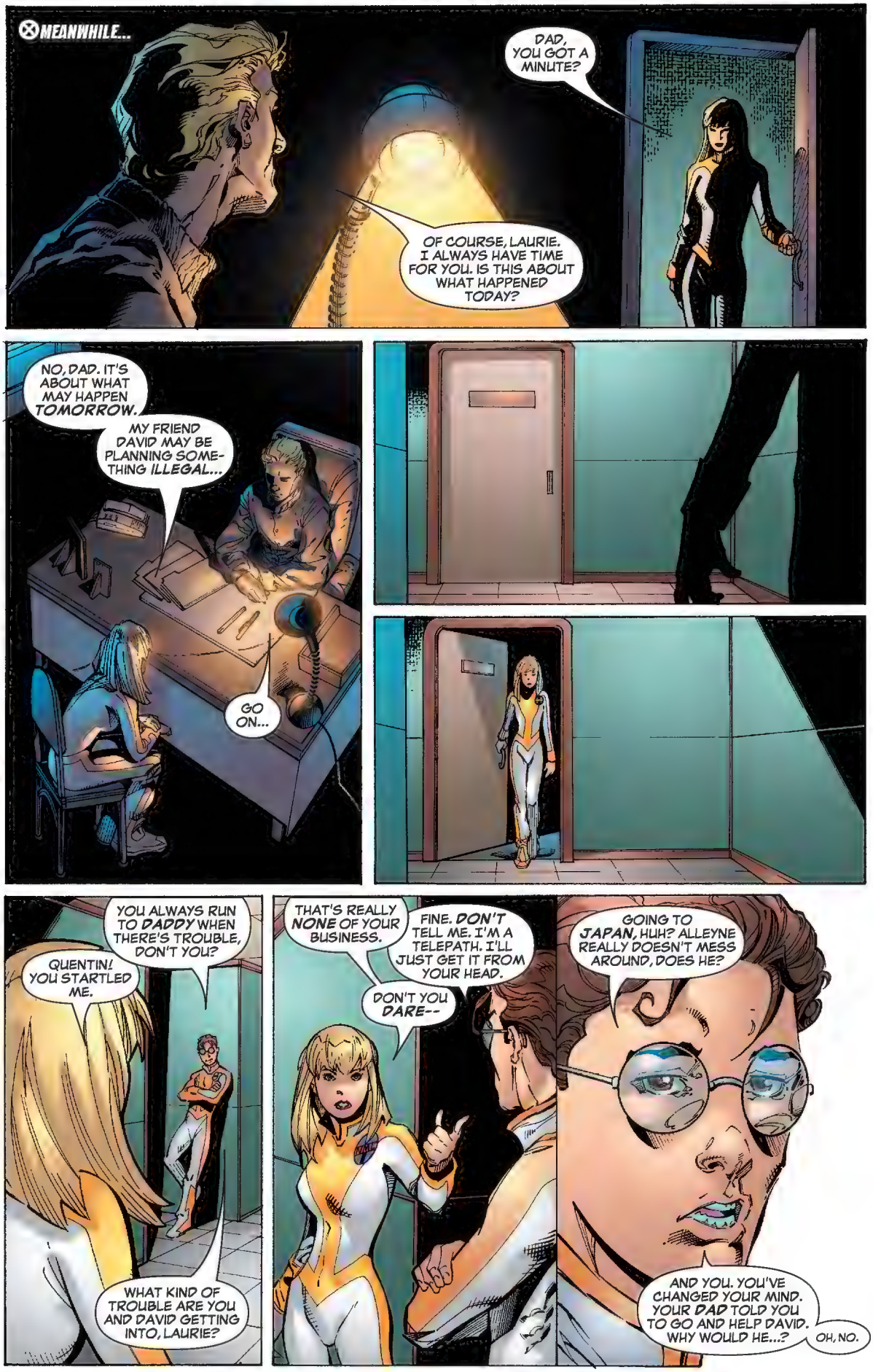

NOK NOK
COME IN.
HEY, NORIKO. WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? WE DON'T USUALLY GET HELLION VISITORS--OR ANY... S.H.I.E.L.D. TRAINEES, REALLY.
COME ON IN AND CLOSE THE DOOR BEFORE PEOPLE SEE US.
I...UH...HAD SOME TIME AND I WANTED TO...
THEY'RE GIVING YOU TIME OFF? COOL.
YOU KNOW, I KNOW A GUY WHO CAN GET US TICKETS TO THE JOSH GUTHRIE CONCERT. IT'S BEEN SOLD OUT FOR MONTHS, SO I DOUBT ANY OF THE KIDS FROM HERE WILL BE GOING. WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING SEEN TOGETHER.
DAVID, I HAVE TIME OFF BECAUSE I WAS REMOVED FROM THE SQUAD.
REMOVED? PERMANENTLY?
I'M SORRY, NORI. I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT S.H.I.E.L.D. TRAINING WAS TO YOU.
NOT PERMANENTLY. JUST FOR THIS NEW ASSIGNMENT.
THE TERRORIST ATTACK TODAY...IT WAS CONNECTED TO A HUMAN RESISTANCE GROUP IN JAPAN.
A GROUP THAT MY FATHER LEADS.

WHY WOULD THEY EVEN TELL YOU THAT?
WELL, HERE'S THE TRICKY PART, DAVID. I DON'T KNOW WHICH UPSETS ME MORE.
THE FACT THAT THEY'RE GOING AFTER MY FATHER OR THE FACT THAT THEY CUT ME OUT.
NORIKO, THEY WERE RIGHT NOT TO SEND YOU. YOU CAN'T GO AFTER YOUR FATHER. THIS IS A RESISTANCE MOVEMENT! IT'S GOING TO GET VIOLENT!
YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO FIGHT YOUR DAD...OR WORSE, KILL HIM.
I HAVEN'T TALKED TO MY FATHER SINCE EMPEROR SUNFIRE PULLED ME OUT OF THAT HOUSE. SEIJI ASHIDA IS A STRANGER TO ME. HE'S BARELY MY FATHER.
BESIDES, NONE OF US TALK TO OUR SAPIEN PARENTS. DO YOU?
NO, BUT...I DON'T KNOW, SOMETIMES THAT SEEMS WRONG. BESIDES, I WOULDN'T BE FIGHTING THEM.
YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. IF I WERE THERE, I COULD KEEP IT FROM GETTING OUT OF HAND. I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE TALK HIM DOWN SO HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE.
BUT THEY ARE TERRORISTS AND JULIAN WON'T HESITATE. MY DAD IS GOING TO DIE. I SHOULDN'T CARE. BUT I DO.
I'M SORRY. I WISH THERE WERE SOMETHING I COULD DO...
THERE IS...HELP ME GET HIM OUT OF JAPAN BEFORE THE HELLIONS FIND HIM!

LATER...
NO WAY. IF HER FATHER IS A TERRORIST, HE SHOULD BE BROUGHT IN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE DATING A HELLION AND DIDN'T TELL US, DAVID!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT, CESSILY.
THE POINT IS, IF WE GET HIM OUT OF THERE BEFORE THE FIGHT STARTS, MAYBE HE CAN BE SAVED.
SAVED? HE SENT PEOPLE TO BLOW US UP TODAY. WHY DOES HE GET TO BE SAVED?
BECAUSE HE'S MY FATHER.
EVERYONE IS SOMEBODY'S FATHER. WHY SHOULD WE SAVE ONE TERRORIST?
WE'RE NOT ALL AS LUCKY AS YOU, LAURIE. WE DON'T HAVE MUTANT PARENTS. WE HAVE SAPIENS, AND SAPIENS SCREW UP SOMETIMES. YOUR MOM IS A SAPIEN, RIGHT?
DON'T MENTION MY MOTHER. SHE TRIED TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM MY FATHER...
...AND IF SOMEONE WANTED HER DEAD, I DON'T KNOW IF I WOULD CARE.


YOU WOULD CARE, LAURIE. WE BOTH KNOW THAT.
MAYBE I WOULD. BUT MY MOM'S NOT A TERRORIST. NORIKO'S FATHER IS A DANGEROUS MAN AND S.H.I.E.L.D. SHOULD BE GOING AFTER HIM.
SHE'S RIGHT, DAVID. I'M SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T DO THIS FOR YOU.
IT WAS A LOT TO ASK. DON'T WORRY.
AND YOU GUYS SHOULDN'T DO IT, EITHER.
WE HAVE TO. MAYBE WE'LL GET HIM TO TURN HIMSELF IN, BUT EITHER WAY, WE CAN'T LET HIM BE KILLED.
HE'S NORIKO'S FATHER. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME.
DAVID, WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS. OF COURSE WE'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET.
BUT GUYS... PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.

TOKYO, JAPAN
<HEY!>
<YOU WORK ON PROJECT GENESIS. WE KNOW SOME PEOPLE WHO WANT TO TALK TO YOU.>
ALL RIGHT... WHO KNOWS HOW TO SAY "YOU'RE UNDER ARREST" IN JAPANESE?
I'VE GOT IT. I'LL LET THEM KNOW WHO WE ARE WHILE I'M AT IT.
CL-CLACK
CL-CLACK
CL-CLACK
I THINK THEY KNOW WHO WE ARE.


MEANWHILE...
DAD, YOU GOT A MINUTE?
OF COURSE, LAURIE. I ALWAYS HAVE TIME FOR YOU. IS THIS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?
NO, DAD. IT'S ABOUT WHAT MAY HAPPEN *TOMORROW*.
MY FRIEND DAVID MAY BE PLANNING SOMETHING *ILLEGAL*...
GO ON...
YOU ALWAYS RUN TO *DADDY* WHEN THERE'S TROUBLE, DON'T YOU?
QUENTIN! YOU STARTLED ME.
WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE ARE YOU AND DAVID GETTING INTO, LAURIE?
THAT'S REALLY *NONE* OF YOUR BUSINESS.
FINE. *DON'T* TELL ME. I'M A TELEPATH. I'LL JUST GET IT FROM YOUR HEAD.
DON'T YOU *DARE*--
GOING TO *JAPAN*, HUH? ALLEYNE REALLY DOESN'T MESS AROUND, DOES HE?
AND YOU. YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND. YOUR *DAD* TOLD YOU TO GO AND HELP DAVID. WHY WOULD HE...?
OH, NO.

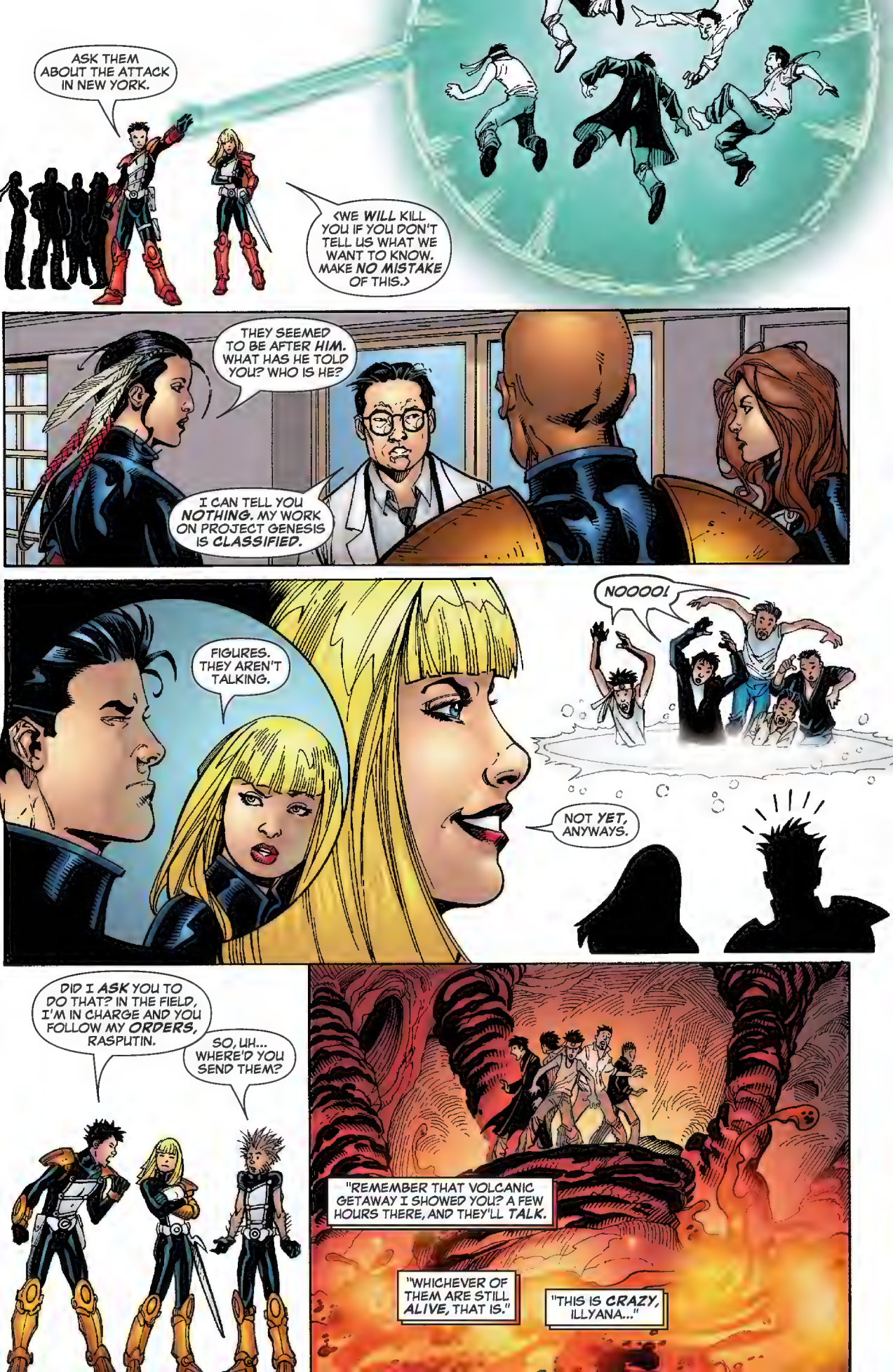
YOU...? YOUR DAD?
IF YOU KNOW MY SECRET, THEN YOU KNOW WHY YOU SHOULDN'T MESS WITH ME, QUENTIN.
NO. YOU DON'T WANT TO MESS WITH ME. I CAN MAKE YOUR MIND SHUT OFF! YOU'D BE DEAD IN AN INSTANT!
SO THAT'S HOW YOU COULD KILL YOURSELF IF YOU WERE SUICIDAL?
THEN DO IT. YOU'RE FEELING VERY...DEPRESSED. LIFE'S BEEN UNKIND TO YOU. NO ONE HERE LIKES YOU.
URK...
MY PHEROMONES CAN CONTROL YOU COMPLETELY. AND THEY LEAVE NO TRACE.
SORRY, BUT I COULDN'T HAVE YOU TELL ANYONE ABOUT ME UNTIL DAVID AND NORIKO LEAD ME TO THE RESISTANCE GROUP.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE INTO MY HEAD, QUENTIN. S.H.I.E.L.D. LIKES ITS SECRET AGENTS TO BE SECRET, YOU KNOW?

NEW X-MEN #17

TOKYO
HOUSE DIVIDED
PART 2 of 4
WELL... THIS OUGHTA BE FUN.

THIS SITUATION IS ALL YOURS, HELLIONS. DO ME PROUD.
YOU SYNCHED TO ME, EV?
YEAH.
PROTECT THAT SCIENTIST THESE GUYS ARE AFTER.
WHY DO YOU GET TO DO THE FUN STUFF, JULIAN?
BECAUSE IT'S MY TELEKINESIS AND YOU'RE JUST BORROWING IT. GET YOUR OWN POWERS, DUDE.
BLAM!
SPLAT
ONE DOWN. THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO SHOOT AT ME.
MAGIK! WE NEED TO ASK THESE GUYS ABOUT THE TERRORIST CELL HERE IN TOKYO! THAT MEANS WE NEED THEM ALIVE!
NO, IT MEANS WE NEED A COUPLE OF THEM ALIVE. THE REST...WHO CARES?

MAN, WE WERE SO READY FOR THIS MISSION. THESE SAPIENS AREN'T EVEN MAKING US BREAK A SWEAT!
MAX, THERE'S AT LEAST TWENTY OF THEM STILL LEFT. DON'T CELEBRATE 'TIL IT'S OVER!
OH, JULIAN, YOU NEEDN'T WORRY...
WHOOOSH!
...IT IS OVER.
WELL DONE, WIND DANCER.
ALL OF YOU, GOOD JOB. NOW LET'S GET SOME ANSWERS ABOUT THIS TERRORIST CELL.

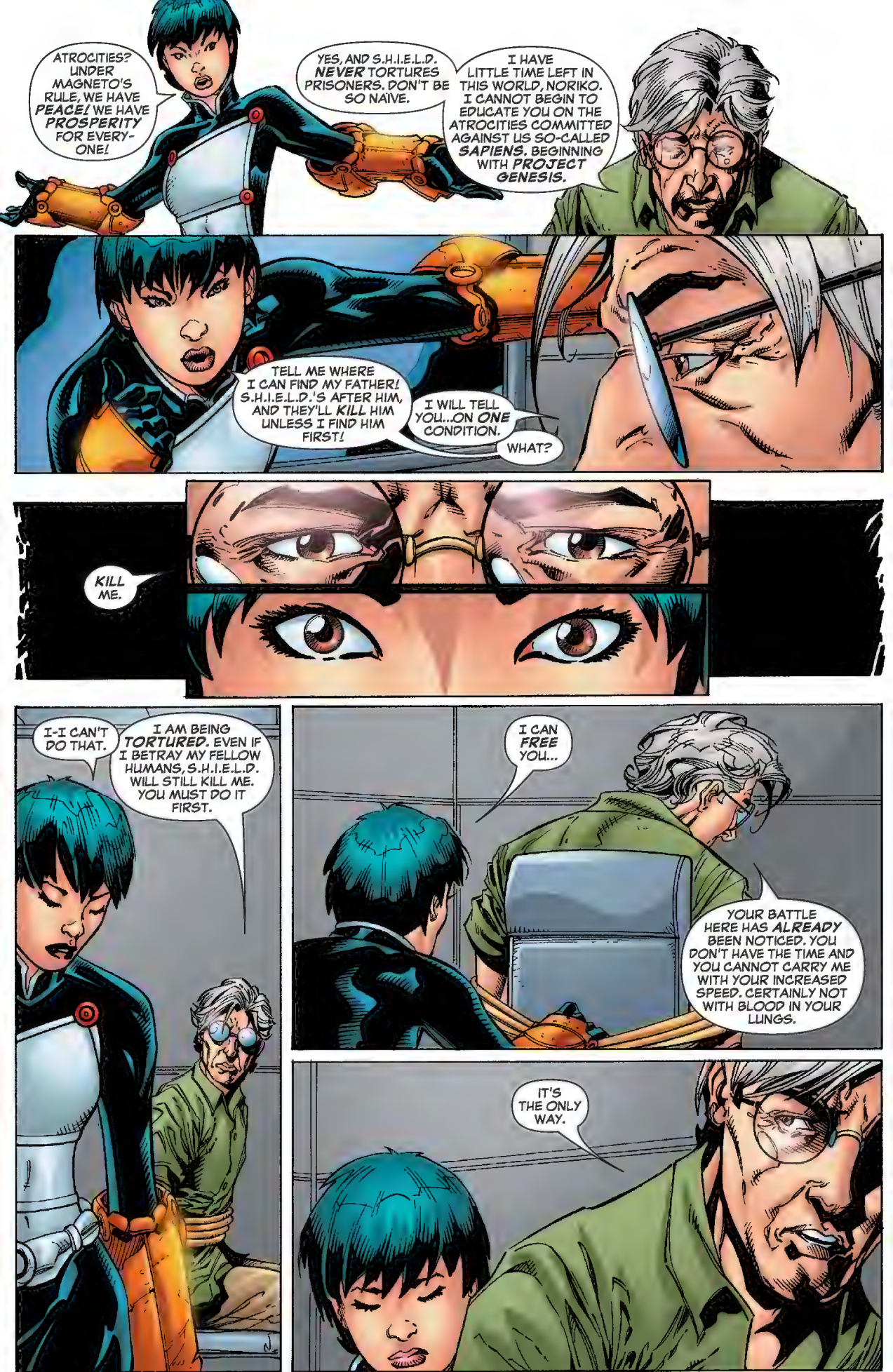

ASK THEM ABOUT THE ATTACK IN NEW YORK.
<WE *WILL* KILL YOU IF YOU DON'T TELL US WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW. MAKE *NO MISTAKE* OF THIS.>
THEY SEEMED TO BE AFTER *HIM*. WHAT HAS HE TOLD YOU? WHO IS HE?
I CAN TELL YOU *NOTHING*. MY WORK ON PROJECT GENESIS IS *CLASSIFIED*.
FIGURES. THEY AREN'T TALKING.
NOOOO!
NOT *YET*, ANYWAYS.
DID I *ASK* YOU TO DO THAT? IN THE FIELD, I'M IN CHARGE AND YOU FOLLOW MY *ORDERS*, RASPUTIN.
SO, UH... WHERE'D YOU SEND THEM?
"REMEMBER THAT VOLCANIC GETAWAY I SHOWED YOU? A FEW HOURS THERE, AND THEY'LL *TALK*.
"WHICHEVER OF THEM ARE STILL *ALIVE*, THAT IS."
"THIS IS *CRAZY*, ILLYANA..."

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER, OVER NEW YORK CITY
"...THERE HAS GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY TO GET INFORMATION."
AAAAGGH!
ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN YOUR SITUATION.
AGENT FORD HERE, THE GENTLEMAN IN THE CONTAINMENT SUIT, HAS A SPECIAL GIFT. ANYTHING HE TOUCHES WITHERS AND DIES.
I'M AGENT FOLEY. MY MUTANT GIFT SPEEDS UP THE BODY'S BIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS. IN SHORT, I'M A HEALER. I KEEP YOU FROM DYING WHEN AGENT FORD TOUCHES YOU.
THE NET EFFECT IS NEGLIGIBLE. THEY CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT. BUT NOT BEFORE AGENT FORD CAUSES A PART OF YOU TO DIE AND I FORCE IT BACK TO LIFE.
I UNDERSTAND- IT'S QUITE PAINFUL.
SINCE YOU HAVE TELEPATHIC RESISTANCE AND REFUSE TO TELL US WHERE YOUR TERRORIST CELL IS LOCATED IN TOKYO, WE HAVE TO OPT FOR MORE...PERSUASIVE METHODS.
BUT YOU COULD SPARE YOURSELF ALL OF THIS.
NOTHING TO SAY? GOOD. I WAS HOPING FOR THAT. MY POWER'S HUNGRY.
AND YOU'RE LUNCH.
AAAAAAAAH!

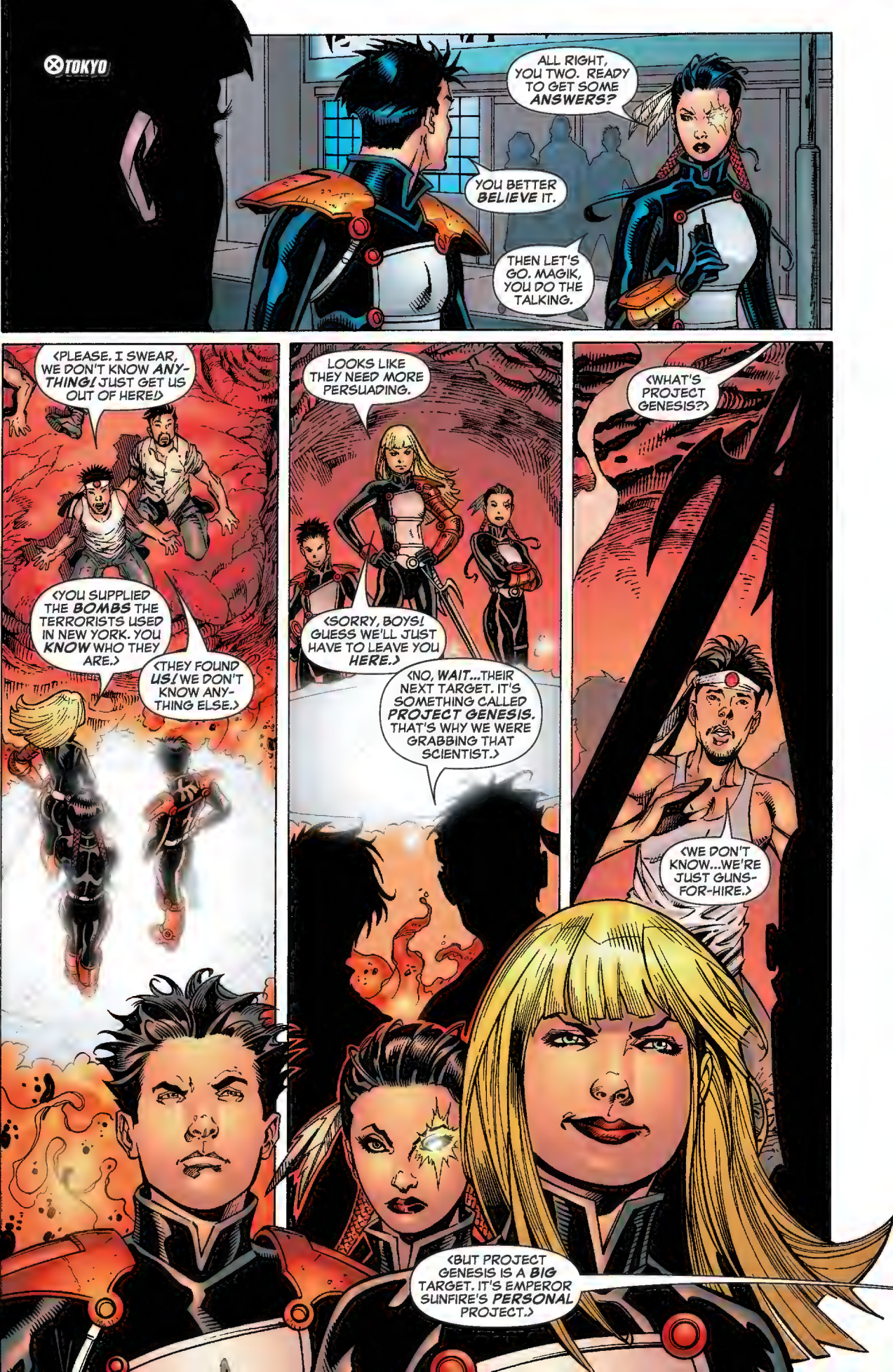
STOP IT! ARE YOU CRAZY? WE'RE S.H.I.E.L.D.! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE GOOD GUYS!
AGENT ASHIDA...I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN RELIEVED OF YOUR DUTIES AS A MEMBER OF THE HELLIONS SQUAD ON THIS MATTER. SO STAND DOWN.
WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
YOUR WORK IS FINISHED! YOU'RE NOT TOUCHING THIS MAN AGAIN!
WUT!
WELL, WE EITHER TOUCH HIM...OR YOU.
YOU'RE NOT TOUCHING ME, FORD.
AND YOU, JOSH? WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, HEAL ME TO DEATH?

MY POWER ISN'T LIMITED TO HEALING!
I'VE JUST MADE THE BLOOD RUSH TO YOUR LUNGS. YOUR VESSELS ARE RUPTURING, AND BLOOD IS FILLING YOUR LUNGS!
MAKES IT HARD TO BREATHE, DOESN'T IT? YOU'LL BE DEAD SOON.
BUT YOU WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH FOR HIM TO KILL YOU.
NO. I'LL LIVE LONGER.
ZZZZZT!
YOU THINK YOU GUYS CAN TAKE ME?
I'M S.H.I.E.L.D. TRAINED. FOR COMBAT, NOT INTERROGATION.
YOU'RE LOW ON POWER. I CAN FEEL IT EBB IN YOU.
AND YOUR LUNGS ARE STILL FILLING WITH BLOOD.
DON'T NEED MY POWER TO HANDLE YOU!

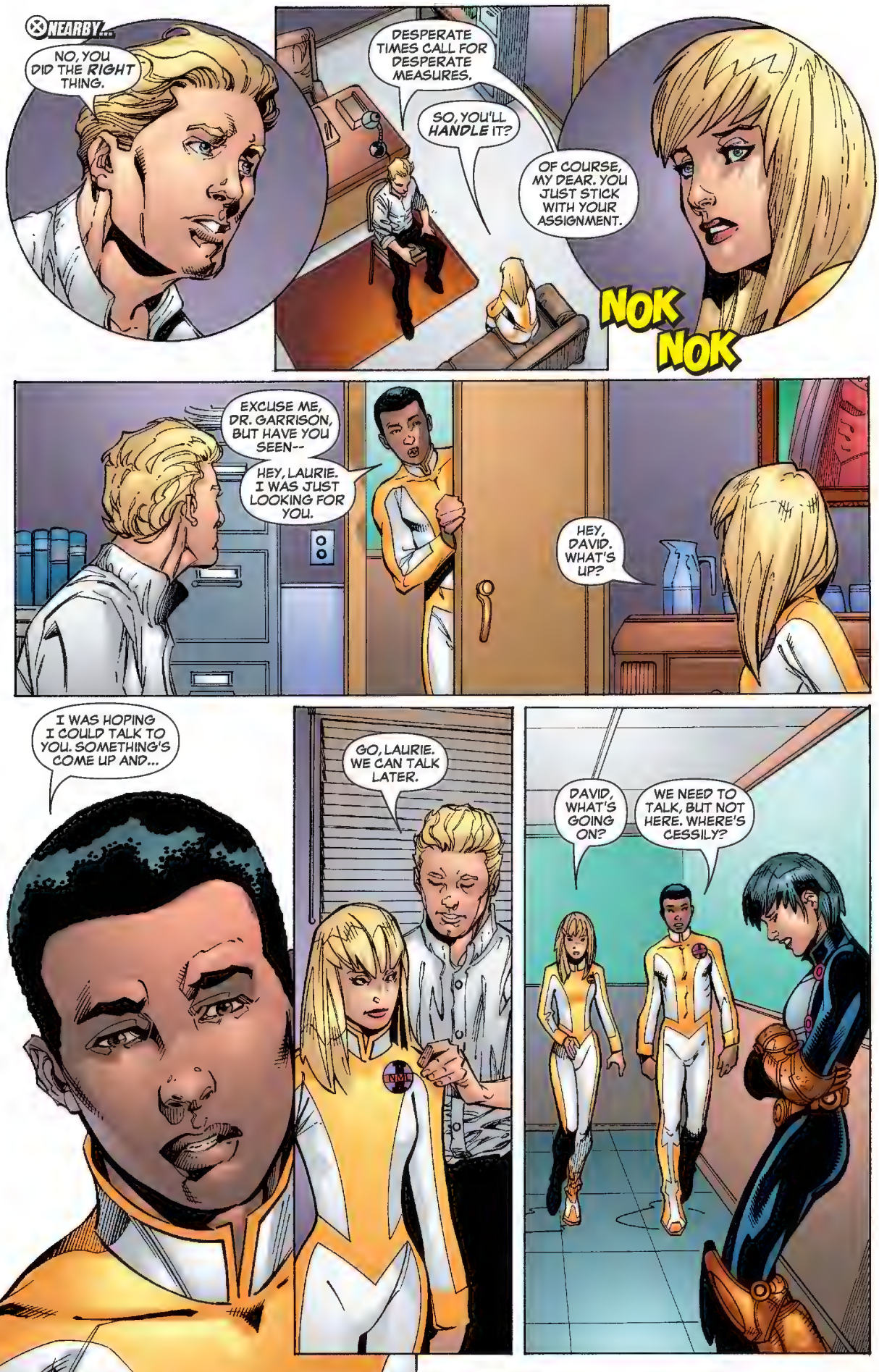
SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
YOU GIVE ME ANSWERS. AND YOU'RE WELCOME, BY THE WAY.
YOU LOOK... FAMILIAR.
I HELPED STOP YOUR TERRORIST ATTACK TODAY.
THAT'S NOT IT...
YOU'RE SEIJI ASHIDA'S LITTLE GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
NORIKO, RIGHT?
I'M CAMERON HODGE. AND ONE DAY I WILL SEE YOUR KIND DESTROYED.
MY KIND...? BUT NOT ME?
NO. YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE.
BESIDES, SEIJI WANTS YOU SAVED. RETURNED TO HIS HOME.
WHAT CAN I SAY? HE'S SENTIMENTAL. EVEN IN THE FACE OF THE ATROCITIES YOUR KIND HAS VISITED UPON HUMANITY.

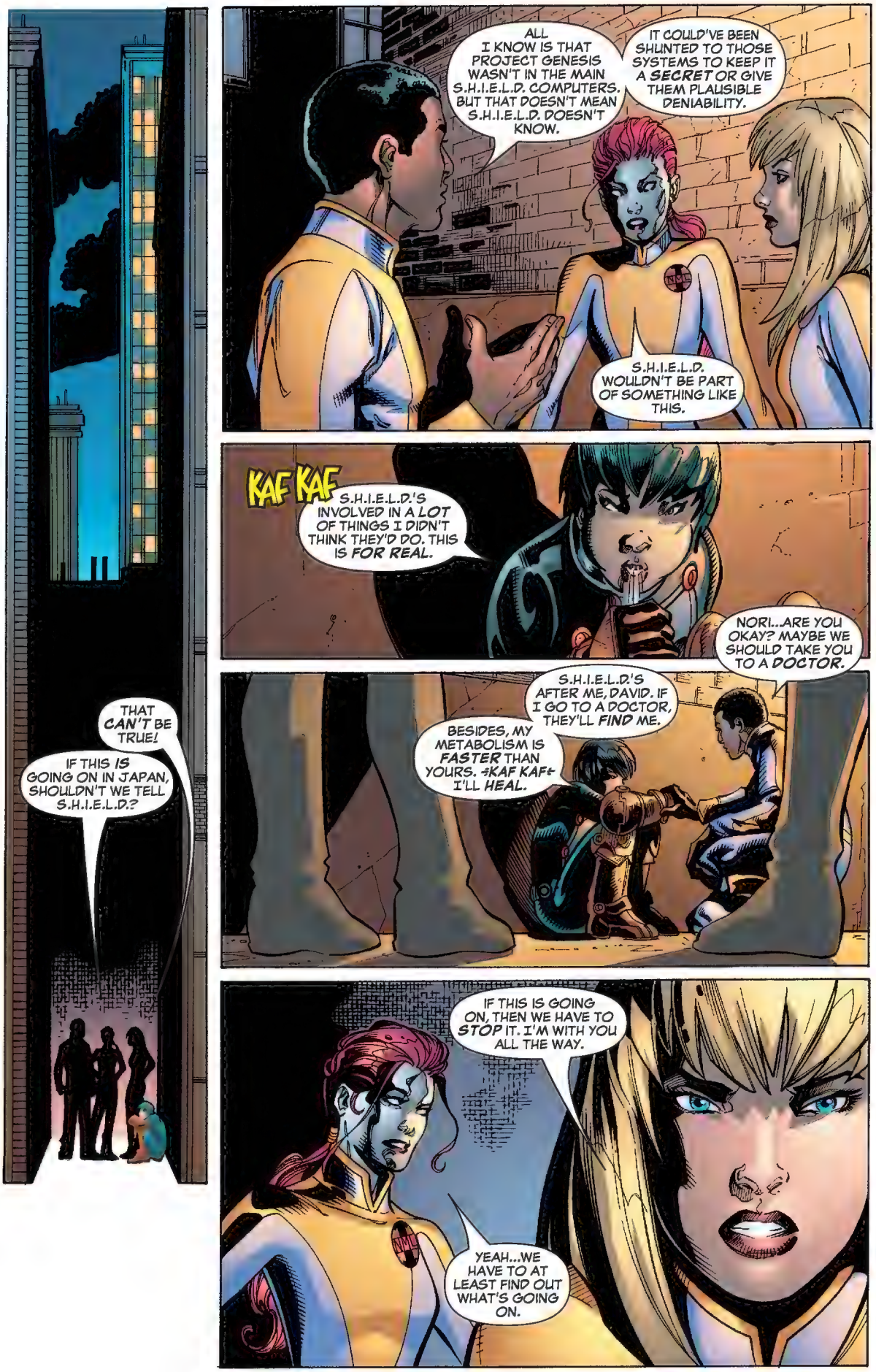

ATROCITIES? UNDER MAGNETO'S RULE, WE HAVE PEACE! WE HAVE PROSPERITY FOR EVERY-ONE!
YES, AND S.H.I.E.L.D. NEVER TORTURES PRISONERS. DON'T BE SO NAÏVE.
I HAVE LITTLE TIME LEFT IN THIS WORLD, NORIKO. I CANNOT BEGIN TO EDUCATE YOU ON THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED AGAINST US SO-CALLED SAPIENS. BEGINNING WITH PROJECT GENESIS.
TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND MY FATHER! S.H.I.E.L.D.'S AFTER HIM, AND THEY'LL KILL HIM UNLESS I FIND HIM FIRST!
I WILL TELL YOU...ON ONE CONDITION.
WHAT?
KILL ME.
I-I CAN'T DO THAT.
I AM BEING TORTURED. EVEN IF I BETRAY MY FELLOW HUMANS, S.H.I.E.L.D. WILL STILL KILL ME. YOU MUST DO IT FIRST.
I CAN FREE YOU...
YOUR BATTLE HERE HAS ALREADY BEEN NOTICED. YOU DON'T HAVE THE TIME AND YOU CANNOT CARRY ME WITH YOUR INCREASED SPEED. CERTAINLY NOT WITH BLOOD IN YOUR LUNGS.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY.

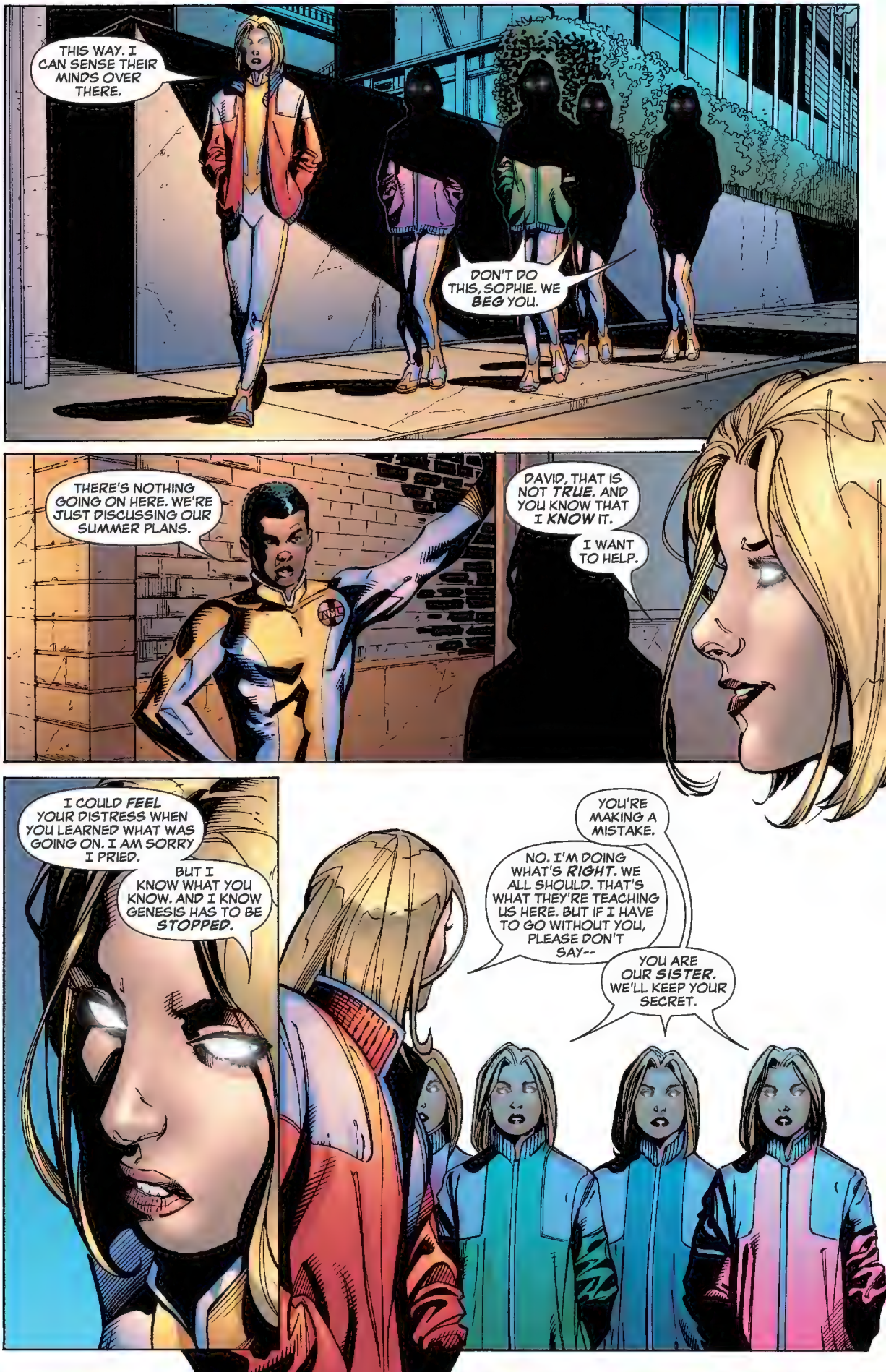
WONDERFUL.
THIS HAD BETTER HAVE BEEN WORTH IT.
AGENT MOONSTAR, THIS IS AGENT FOLEY.
GO AHEAD.
ASHIDA CAME, JUST AS YOU EXPECTED...
...BUT SHE KILLED HODGE.
DID SHE GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM?
I THINK SO.
GOOD. THEN SHE'S GETTING CLOSER TO FINDING HER FATHER.
LET HER GO. WE'VE GOT SOMEONE ELSE TRACKING HER. SHE'LL LEAD US TO SEIJI ASHIDA. IF NOT, WE'VE GOT SOME LEADS HERE.


TOKYO
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO. READY TO GET SOME ANSWERS?
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT.
THEN LET'S GO, MAGIK, YOU DO THE TALKING.
<PLEASE. I SWEAR, WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING! JUST GET US OUT OF HERE!>
<YOU SUPPLIED THE BOMBS THE TERRORISTS USED IN NEW YORK. YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE.>
<THEY FOUND US! WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE.>
LOOKS LIKE THEY NEED MORE PERSUADING.
<SORRY, BOYS! GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO LEAVE YOU HERE.>
<NO, WAIT...THEIR NEXT TARGET. IT'S SOMETHING CALLED PROJECT GENESIS. THAT'S WHY WE WERE GRABBING THAT SCIENTIST.>
<WHAT'S PROJECT GENESIS?>
<WE DON'T KNOW...WE'RE JUST GUNS-FOR-HIRE.>
<BUT PROJECT GENESIS IS A BIG TARGET. IT'S EMPEROR SUNFIRE'S PERSONAL PROJECT.>

NEW MUTANT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
COULDN'T WE HAVE DONE THIS AT THE HELI-CARRIER?
YOU ATTACKED YOUR FELLOW AGENTS AND KILLED A GUY, NORI. THEY'RE GOING TO BE LOOKING FOR YOU.
WE NEED TO GET THIS INFORMATION. AND GET IT QUICK.
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT HIM BEING HERE?
MR. RAMSEY IS AN EXPERT IN ALL LANGUAGES. INCLUDING COMPUTER LANGUAGES. I NEED TO BE NEAR HIM SO I CAN TELEPATHICALLY TAP INTO THAT AND CRACK THESE FILES.
JUST KEEP AN EYE ON HIM AND LET ME KNOW IF HE STARTS WATCHING US.
THIS IS SERIOUS. EVEN S.H.I.E.L.D.'S MAIN OFFICES DON'T KNOW ABOUT PROJECT GENESIS. BUT I'VE USED THEIR SYSTEMS TO CONNECT DIRECTLY TO S.H.I.E.L.D. JAPAN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?
OH, NO... THIS IS BAD.


NEARBY...
NO, YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.
DESPERATE TIMES CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES.
SO, YOU'LL HANDLE IT?
OF COURSE, MY DEAR. YOU JUST STICK WITH YOUR ASSIGNMENT.
NOK NOK
EXCUSE ME, DR. GARRISON, BUT HAVE YOU SEEN--
HEY, LAURIE. I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR YOU.
HEY, DAVID. WHAT'S UP?
I WAS HOPING I COULD TALK TO YOU. SOMETHING'S COME UP AND...
GO, LAURIE. WE CAN TALK LATER.
DAVID, WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE NEED TO TALK, BUT NOT HERE. WHERE'S CESSILY?


ALL I KNOW IS THAT PROJECT GENESIS WASN'T IN THE MAIN S.H.I.E.L.D. COMPUTERS. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN S.H.I.E.L.D. DOESN'T KNOW.
IT COULD'VE BEEN SHUNTED TO THOSE SYSTEMS TO KEEP IT A SECRET OR GIVE THEM PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY.
S.H.I.E.L.D. WOULDN'T BE PART OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
KAF KAF
S.H.I.E.L.D.'S INVOLVED IN A LOT OF THINGS I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D DO. THIS IS FOR REAL.
NORI...ARE YOU OKAY? MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE YOU TO A DOCTOR.
S.H.I.E.L.D.'S AFTER ME, DAVID. IF I GO TO A DOCTOR, THEY'LL FIND ME.
BESIDES, MY METABOLISM IS FASTER THAN YOURS. =KAF KAF= I'LL HEAL.
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
IF THIS IS GOING ON IN JAPAN, SHOULDN'T WE TELL S.H.I.E.L.D.?
IF THIS IS GOING ON, THEN WE HAVE TO STOP IT. I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY.
YEAH...WE HAVE TO AT LEAST FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.


THIS WAY. I CAN SENSE THEIR MINDS OVER THERE.
DON'T DO THIS, SOPHIE. WE BEG YOU.
THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON HERE. WE'RE JUST DISCUSSING OUR SUMMER PLANS.
DAVID, THAT IS NOT TRUE. AND YOU KNOW THAT I KNOW IT.
I WANT TO HELP.
I COULD FEEL YOUR DISTRESS WHEN YOU LEARNED WHAT WAS GOING ON. I AM SORRY I PRIED.
BUT I KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW. AND I KNOW GENESIS HAS TO BE STOPPED.
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE.
NO. I'M DOING WHAT'S RIGHT. WE ALL SHOULD. THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE TEACHING US HERE. BUT IF I HAVE TO GO WITHOUT YOU, PLEASE DON'T SAY--
YOU ARE OUR SISTER. WE'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET.

GIRLS, WE'VE GOT ONE MORE COMING WITH US.
I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE MORE THAN THAT.
OH NO.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I'M SUDDENLY PICKING UP THE ABILITY TO SPEAK CHINESE...
COME ON OUT. WE KNOW YOU'RE THERE.
JAPAN? WE'RE SO IN. RIGHT, SOORAYA?
TOTALLY, JUBES. THEY HAVE THE BEST BOOTLEGS.
WE ARE NOT BRINGING THE SHALLOW TWINS.
IF JUBILEE AND SOORAYA KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP TO, WE'RE BETTER OFF TAKING THEM WITH US THAN LEAVING THEM BEHIND.
YES! ROAD TRIP!

YO, QUENTIN. WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL NIGHT?
QUENTIN? I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO--
QUENTIN?

LATER...
I KNOW THIS IS HARD, BRIAN.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HANG OUT TONIGHT, SHAN. AND HE DIDN'T SHOW.
WE'VE HAD OUR MEDICS SCAN HIS BODY. HIS BRAIN SHUT ITSELF DOWN. KILLED ITSELF.
NO ONE DOES, BRIAN. EVEN I CAN'T DO THAT TO QUENTIN'S MIND. HE WAS TOO POWERFUL.
WHO HAS THE POWER TO DO THAT TO HIM?
WE...WE THINK HE DID IT TO HIMSELF.
QUENTIN DIDN'T KILL HIMSELF! HE WOULDN'T DO THAT!
QUENTIN WAS VERY DRIVEN, BRIAN. SOMETIMES KIDS PUSH THEMSELVES TOO HARD.
BUT...YOU'RE RIGHT. WHILE QUENTIN WAS HIGH-STRUNG, I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT HE WAS THE TYPE TO DO THIS.
UNFORTUNATELY, HE WAS.
QUENTIN HAD BEEN SEEING ME ALL YEAR. THE WORD "SUICIDE" CAME UP SEVERAL TIMES. I THOUGHT WE WERE MAKING PROGRESS, BUT...
...I CONSIDER THIS A COMPLETE FAILURE ON MY PART.
NO! I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! I WAS HIS FRIEND! HE WOULD HAVE TOLD ME!

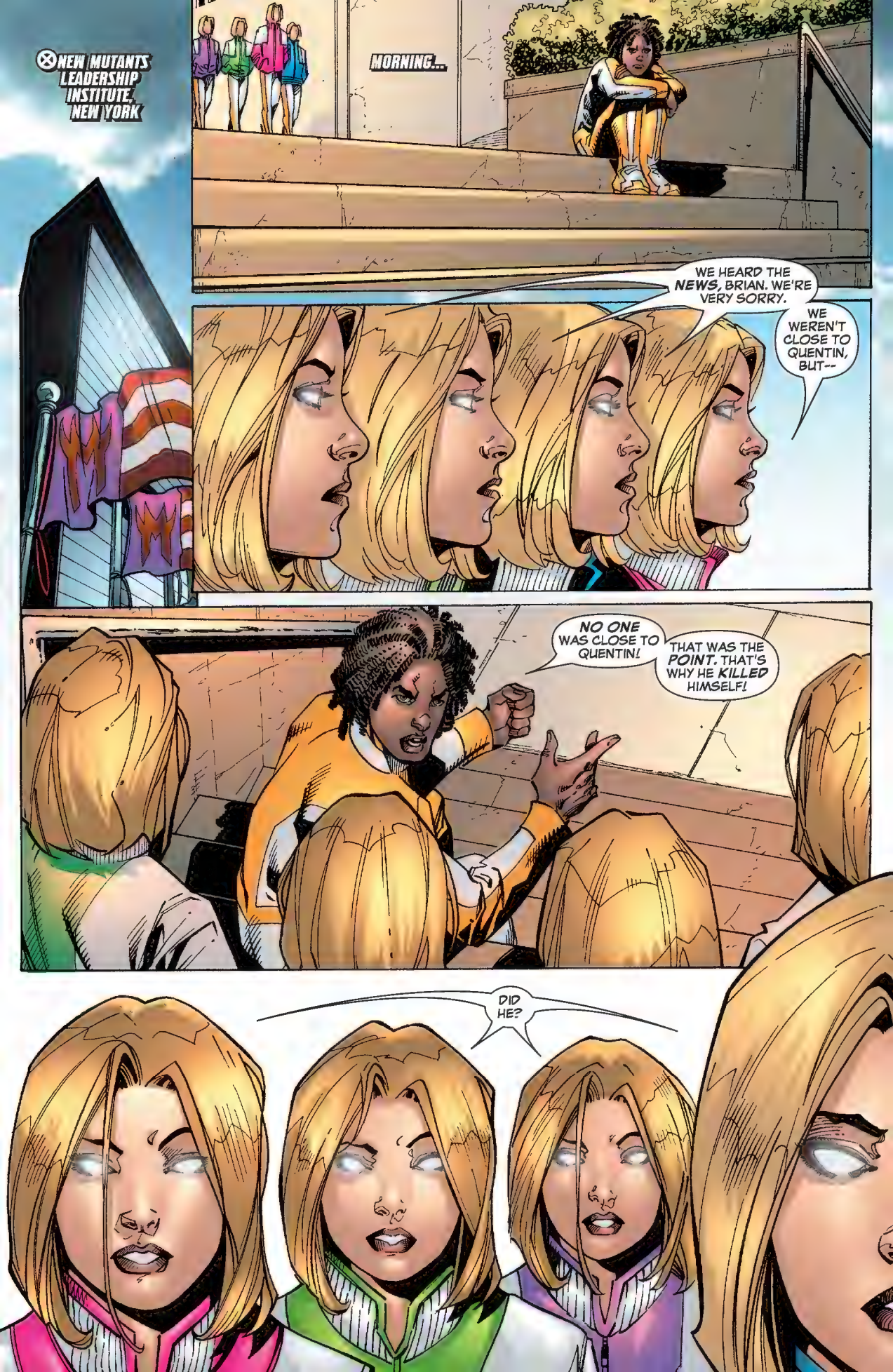
TOKYO, THE IMPERIAL PALACE
PROJECT GENESIS IS IRRELEVANT.
YOUR MAJESTY, WE ONLY ASK BECAUSE OUR ONE LEAD TELLS US THAT THIS PROJECT IS THE TARGET OF THE TERRORIST CELL.
I FAIL TO SEE WHY.
GENESIS IS MERELY A PROGRAM TO RECYCLE WASTE INTO USEABLE FOOD.
ARE THE SAPIENS NOW SO PICKY THAT RECYCLED FOOD IS WORSE THAN NO FOOD?
MAYBE THERE'S SOME ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT THAT OFFENDS THEM. IF WE COULD SEE--

AND YOU ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF GRANTING LEGITIMACY TO THE PETTY CONCERNS OF TERRORISTS? WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, BOY?
YOUR MAJESTY, HE DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY HE SYMPATHIZED.
I'M ON YOUR SIDE, EMPEROR SUNFIRE. YOURS AND MAGNETO'S.
I KNOW THIS IS THE SQUAD I REQUESTED, BUT I HAD HOPED TO SEE NORIKO ASHIDA AMONG THEM. WHERE IS SHE?
THERE IS NOTHING ABOUT GENESIS THAT WOULD BE A TARGET. YOUR SOURCES HAVE GIVEN YOU FALSE INFORMATION.
I TOOK HER OFF THIS ASSIGNMENT. ONE OF THE TERRORISTS WE ARE TRACKING...IS HER FATHER.
NO. HE WAS HER GENETIC PREDECESSOR. HE WAS NOT HER FATHER.
SEIJI ASHIDA WAS MY CLOSEST SAPIEN ADVISOR. AND NORIKO WAS LIKE A NIECE TO ME.
BUT ASHIDA HID HER ABILITIES FROM ME. HE DECEIVED ME.
HE TRIED TO DENY HIS OWN DAUGHTER'S GREATNESS. HE HELD HER BACK, AND SO I TOOK HER FROM HIM.
I TOOK HER AND PUNISHED HIM.
THAT MAN IS NOT HER FATHER. AS FAR AS GIVING HER A FUTURE, I AM NORIKO'S FATHER.
S.H.I.E.L.D. WAS WRONG TO TAKE HER OFF THIS ASSIGNMENT...

"...SHE WOULD HAVE TRACKED DOWN HER FATHER FOR ME."
TOKYO
THIS IS THE PLACE HODGE MENTIONED. THEY SHOULD BE INSIDE.
TELEPATHICALLY, I CAN TELL THERE ARE MANY MINDS INSIDE. BUT THEY ARE SHIELDED LIKE THE TERRORISTS IN NEW YORK.
I CAN'T GET MUCH MORE THAN MOODS. THEY'RE SCARED AND ANGRY.
YEAH, THERE ARE A BUNCH OF PEOPLE INSIDE.
A LITTLE LIGHT SHOW SHOULD BUY US ENOUGH TIME TO GET IN THERE.
SOORAYA, JUBILEE! STAY BACK! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE WALKING INTO.
PLEASE! LIKE WE COULDN'T TAKE A BUNCH OF BASELINE SAPIENS.
NORMALLY, I'D BE THE ONE ADVISING SWIFT AND DECISIVE ACTION. BUT THIS ISN'T THE TIME.
MY DAD'S IN THERE, AND WE CAME TO AVOID FIGHTING.
NORI, WALKING IN THERE MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST--
HE'S MY FATHER, DAVID. I CAN'T KILL MY WAY IN TO SEE HIM.

ZZZT!
CREAK
<EXCUSE ME...?>
<WAIT. PLEASE LET ME TALK TO SEIJI ASHIDA. WE'RE HERE TO HELP.>
AND WHY EXACTLY SHOULD WE TRUST YOU?
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE COME, MUTANTS. WE CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE HERE ALIVE.

NEW X-MEN #18


NEW MUTANTS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, NEW YORK
MORNING...
WE HEARD THE NEWS, BRIAN. WE'RE VERY SORRY.
WE WEREN'T CLOSE TO QUENTIN, BUT--
NO ONE WAS CLOSE TO QUENTIN!
THAT WAS THE POINT. THAT'S WHY HE KILLED HIMSELF!
DID HE?

YEAH, HIS MIND WAS SHUT OFF BY TELEPATHY. AND YOU KNOW HOW POWERFUL HE WAS.
NO OTHER TELEPATH COULD DO THAT TO HIM. NOT EVEN YOU CUCKOOS!
TRUE... ONLY QUENTIN COULD SHUT OFF QUENTIN'S MIND.
HE JUST NEVER SEEMED THE TYPE WHO WOULD REACH THAT LEVEL OF DESPAIR.
HE WAS TOO...FULL OF HIMSELF.
EITHER WAY, IT IS OF NO CONCERN TO US.
YOU KNEW HIM BEST. IF YOU FEEL SOMEHOW HE WAS CAPABLE OF THAT EMOTION, THEN... WELL...
AS WE SAID...WE WEREN'T CLOSE.
WHAT WOULD MAKE HIM FEEL LIKE THAT?

TOKYO
MY NAME IS DONALD PIERCE...
...AND YOU, HOMO DETRITUS, HAVE REACHED AN EVOLUTIONARY DEAD END.
NORI, WATCH OUT!
HOUSE DIVIDED
PART 3 OF 4

WECAMETOHELP!
WE DON'T WANT YOUR HELP! WE WANT YOU DEAD!
TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME.
CLANK

COME AND GET IT, BOYS.
BIG FUN FOR EVERYONE!
KRAKOOM!

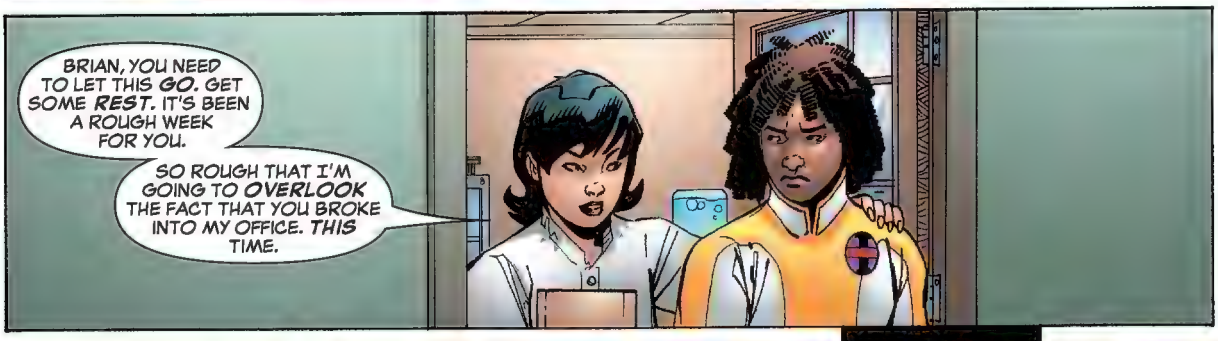
DROP YOUR WEAPONS.
WELL, THAT WORKED. WHAT NOW, DAVID?
NORI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'LL BE FINE. I JUST =KAFF, KAFF= HAVEN'T RECOVERED FROM MY RUN-IN AT S.H.I.E.L.D.
SOORAYA, DON'T BE TOO AGGRESSIVE! WE'RE NOT HERE TO KILL ANYONE!
I NEED... TO FIND...MY FATHER.
NORI, WAIT!
HEY, WHERE'S LAURIE?

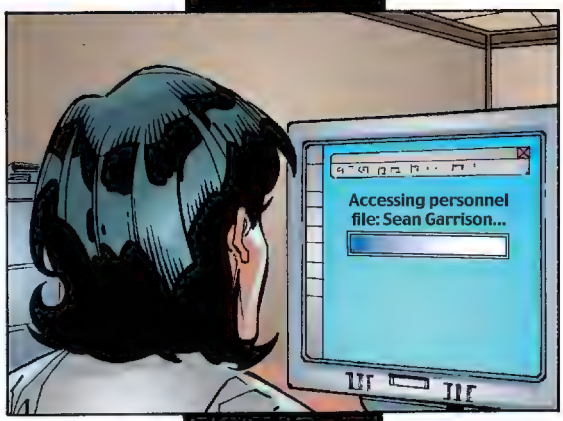
Quentin seems distressed.
TEK TEK TEK
Quentin seems distressed. Suicidal even.
BRRRING
TEK TEK
DAD? NOTIFY S.H.I.E.L.D. I'VE FOUND THE HUMAN RESISTANCE.

FOOD RECYCLING FACILITY, TOKYO
THIS IS PROJECT GENESIS? IT'S DISGUSTING!
IF THIS IS WHAT THEY'RE TURNING INTO FOOD, I CAN SEE WHY THEY'D KEEP GENESIS A SECRET.
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE WORST OF IT, SYNCH. THE FOOD...IT BECOMES... WELL, LET'S JUST SAY IT MIGHT MAKE ME A TERRORIST.
GET SERIOUS, HELLIONS. IF THIS IS ALL THERE IS TO PROJECT GENESIS, THEN WE'RE NO CLOSER TO FIGURING OUT THE HUMAN LIBERATION FRONT'S AGENDA.
BUT THIS IS WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE UPSET ABOUT.
IS IT POSSIBLE EMPEROR SUNFIRE LIED TO US?
MAYBE--
BDEEP
--HOLD ON.
AGENT MOONSTAR.
...YES, THAT'S EXCELLENT NEWS.
WE'VE FOUND THEM.

X-NEW YORK
SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH, MR. CRUZ?
S. GARRISON
OH! SORRY, MISS MANH... I'M JUST TRYING TO FIND OUT WHO KILLED QUENTIN.
BRIAN, WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS. FORENSIC EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT HE SHUT OFF HIS OWN MIND.
WHICH HE WOULD ONLY DO IF HE GOT THAT EMOTIONAL... AND IF HE SAW NO OTHER WAY.
ALL RIGHT...
AND, WELL... DR. GARRISON CONTROLS EMOTIONS.
DR. GARRISON? WELL... I SUPPOSE HE COULD DO IT. BUT SO COULD HIS DAUGHTER LAURIE. WHY WOULD EITHER OF THEM DO SUCH A THING?
WELL, THOSE TERRORISTS MENTIONED THE SINS OF JAPAN, RIGHT?
DR. GARRISON'S PERSONNEL FILE SAYS HE SPENT SOME TIME IN JAPAN BEFORE COMING HERE LAST YEAR.

THIS SAYS HIS TV SHOW SPENT A YEAR THERE. BUT IT DOESN'T PUT HIM ANYWHERE NEAR THE TERRORIST ACTIVITY.
S. GARRISON


BRIAN, YOU NEED TO LET THIS GO. GET SOME REST. IT'S BEEN A ROUGH WEEK FOR YOU.
SO ROUGH THAT I'M GOING TO OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT YOU BROKE INTO MY OFFICE. THIS TIME.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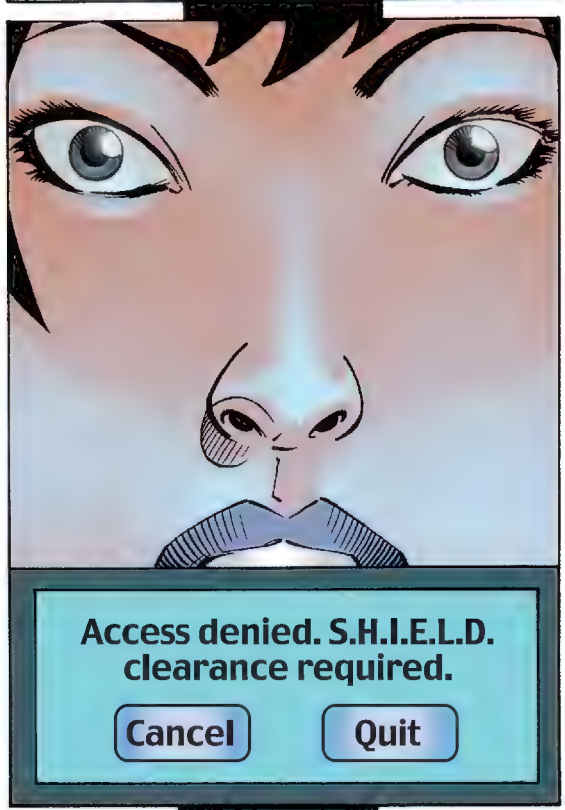
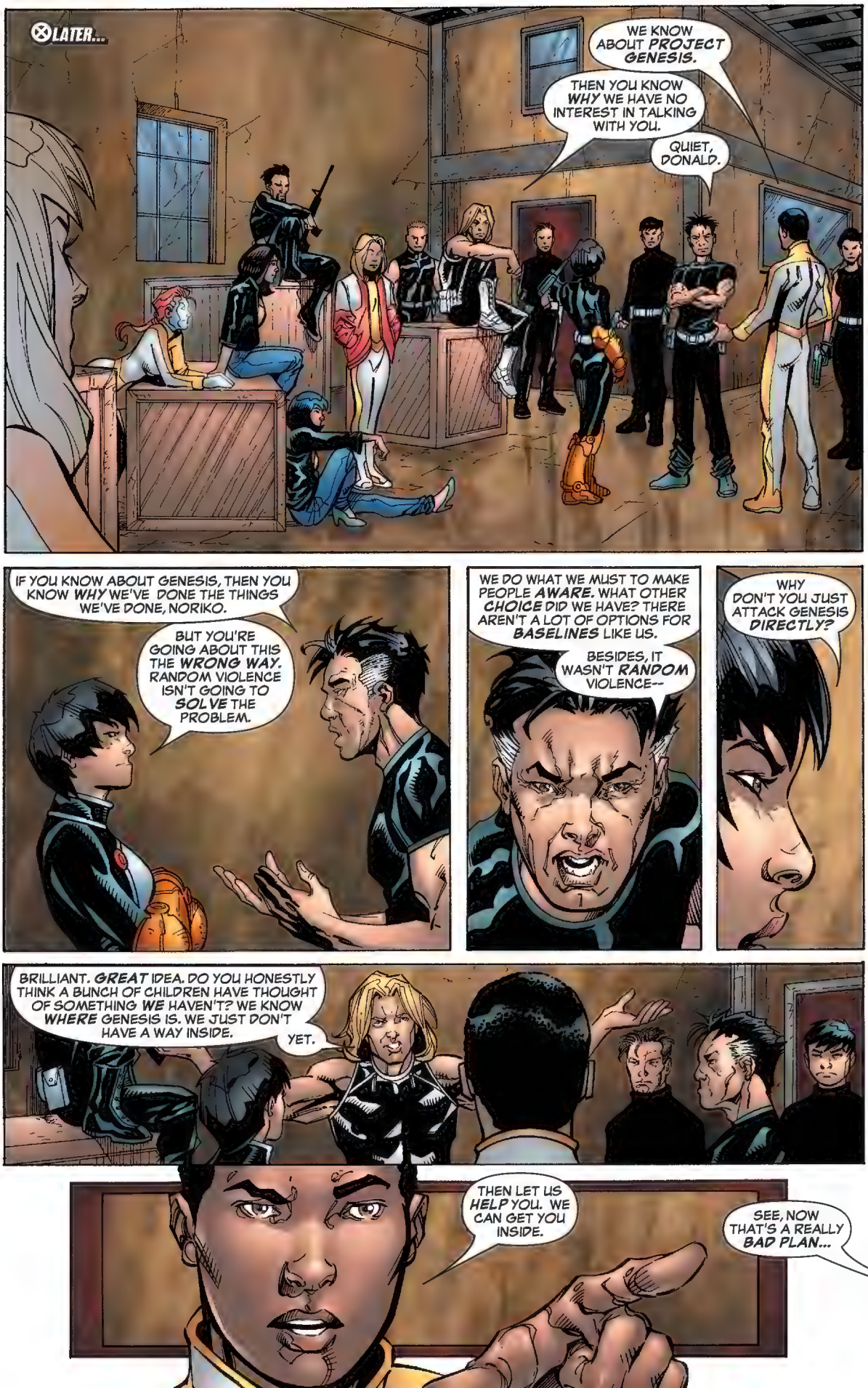
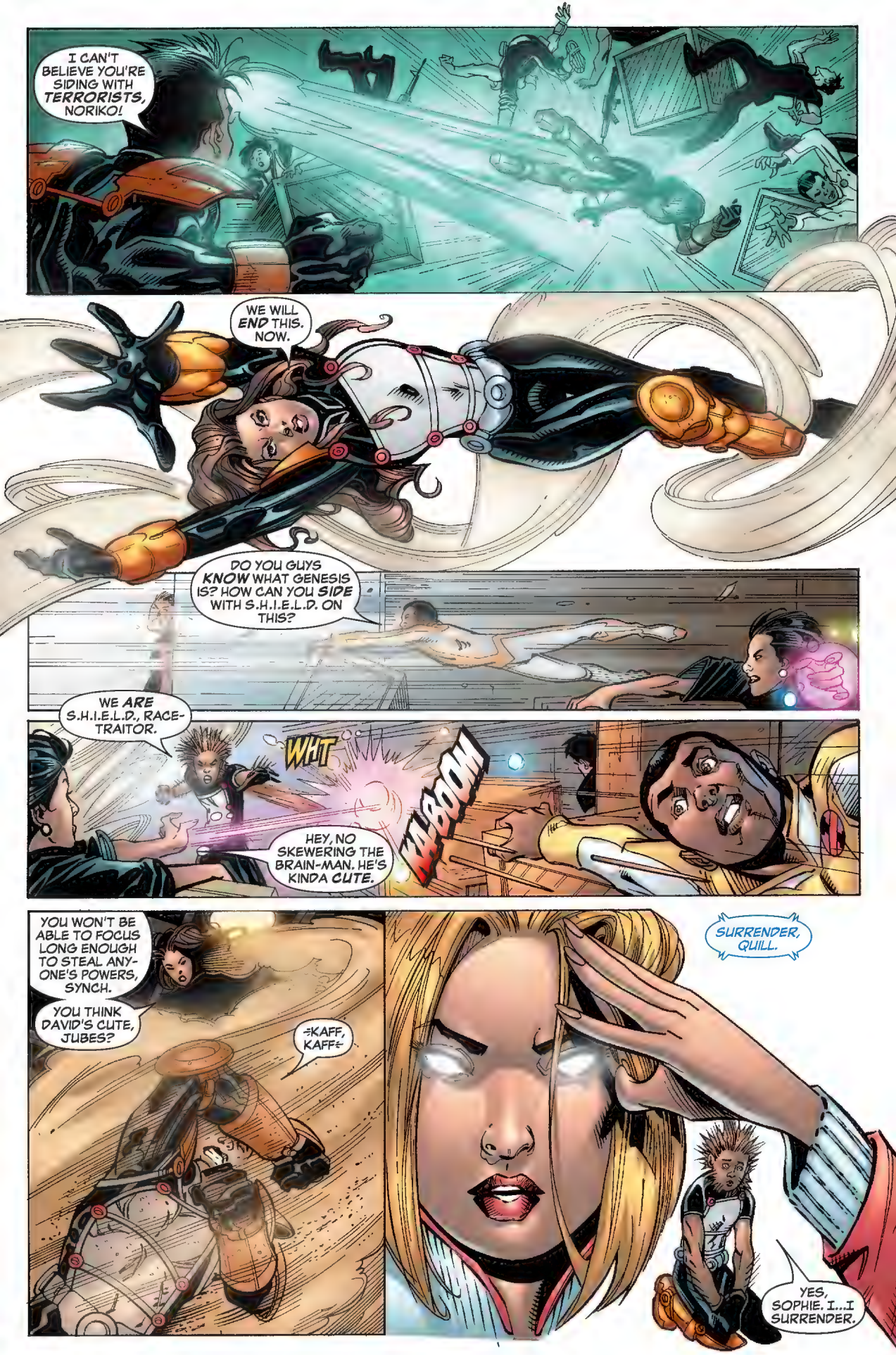

Access denied. S.H.I.E.L.D. clearance required.
Cancel
Quit

HUMAN LIBERATION HEADQUARTERS, TOKYO
NO, I WON'T. THEY'RE HERE TO KILL US.
DUDE, WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS FIGHT MORE SERIOUSLY.
EVEN DISTRACTED, I AM YOUR BETTER!
BUT YOU CAN'T WIN. YOUR BLADE CAN'T EVEN HURT ME!
=KAFF, KAFF=
<DONALD! LISTEN TO ME!>
<HIROTO, WATCH YOUR BACK!>
<THEY'RE FLANKING YOU. NON-LETHAL FORCE ONLY.>
<DONALD, I SAID STAND DOWN. ONE OF THEM IS-->
<--MY DAUGHTER.>

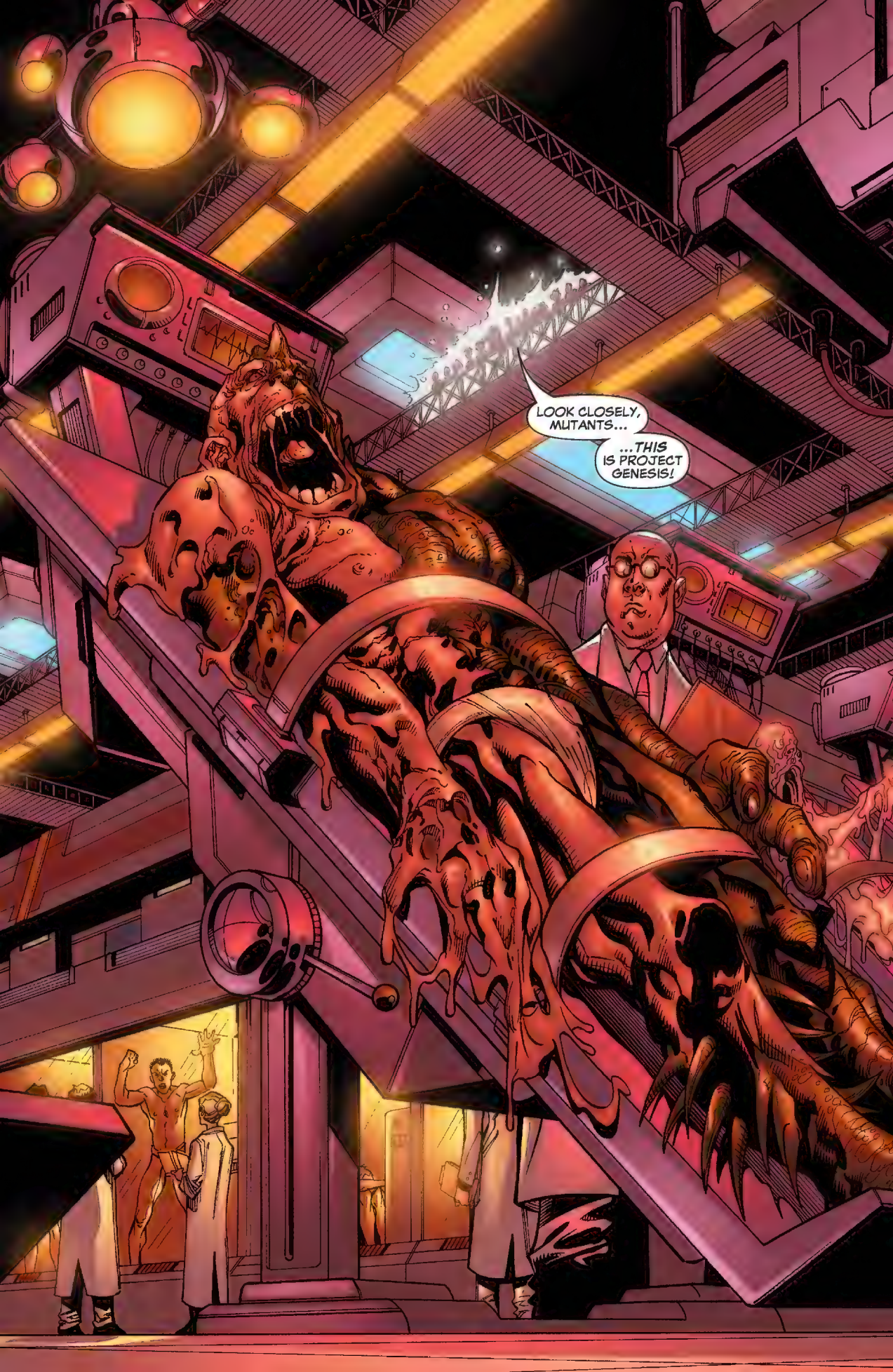
‹NORIKO. YOU'VE COME...›
‹...HOME--›
WHUFF!
‹YOU'RE A TERRORIST NOW?!›
‹PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SENT TO KILL YOU. MY PEOPLE.›
÷KAFF, KAFF÷
‹NORI-CHAN? WHAT HAS HAPPENED? ARE YOU WELL?›
‹I'M FINE. YOU NEED TO CALL OFF YOUR MEN.
‹WE HAVE TO TALK.›


LATER...
WE KNOW ABOUT PROJECT GENESIS.
THEN YOU KNOW WHY WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN TALKING WITH YOU.
QUIET, DONALD.
IF YOU KNOW ABOUT GENESIS, THEN YOU KNOW WHY WE'VE DONE THE THINGS WE'VE DONE, NORIKO.
BUT YOU'RE GOING ABOUT THIS THE WRONG WAY. RANDOM VIOLENCE ISN'T GOING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
WE DO WHAT WE MUST TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE. WHAT OTHER CHOICE DID WE HAVE? THERE AREN'T A LOT OF OPTIONS FOR BASELINES LIKE US.
BESIDES, IT WASN'T RANDOM VIOLENCE--
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ATTACK GENESIS DIRECTLY?
BRILLIANT. GREAT IDEA. DO YOU HONESTLY THINK A BUNCH OF CHILDREN HAVE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING WE HAVEN'T? WE KNOW WHERE GENESIS IS. WE JUST DON'T HAVE A WAY INSIDE.
YET.
THEN LET US HELP YOU. WE CAN GET YOU INSIDE.
SEE, NOW THAT'S A REALLY BAD PLAN...

...YOU GUYS ARE MAKING A HUGE MISTAKE AND WE'RE HERE TO STOP YOU.


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SIDING WITH TERRORISTS, NORIKO!
WE WILL END THIS. NOW.
DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHAT GENESIS IS? HOW CAN YOU SIDE WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. ON THIS?
WE ARE S.H.I.E.L.D., RACE-TRAITOR.
WHT
KA-BOOM
HEY, NO SKEWERING THE BRAIN-MAN. HE'S KINDA CUTE.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FOCUS LONG ENOUGH TO STEAL ANY-ONE'S POWERS, SYNCH.
YOU THINK DAVID'S CUTE, JUBES?
=KAFF, KAFF=
SURRENDER, QUILL.
YES, SOPHIE. I...I SURRENDER.

TOO CROWDED IN HERE. I'LL THIN THE RANKS!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOOK MY SPOT ON THE SQUAD RIGHT?
THE TELEPORTER!
MY FATHER KNOWS WHERE GENESIS IS. AND YOU'RE GONNA GET US INSIDE...
...OR I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU ALL ABOUT ELECTROSHOCK THERAPY.
ZZZT


LOOK CLOSELY, MUTANTS...
...THIS IS PROJECT GENESIS!

THIS IS WHERE EMPEROR SUNFIRE, ON THE ADVICE OF HIS S.H.I.E.L.D. ADVISORS, HAS DECIDED TO MAKE ***BASELINE HUMANS*** INTO ***MUTANTS.***

TO ***FORCE*** EVOLUTION.

IT DOES NOT MATTER ***HOW MANY*** MUTATIONS THEY PUT IN ONE BODY.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THEIR BODIES CANNOT ***HANDLE*** IT...IF THEY ***DIE*** IN THE PROCESS.

WHY SHOULD THEY CARE IF ANYONE ***DIES?*** THE TEST SUBJECTS ARE THE ***POOR*** OF TOKYO. AND THERE ARE ***PLENTY*** OF THEM TO GO AROUND.

UNWILLING VOLUNTEERS ROUNDED UP AND SENT TO THEIR ***DEATH.***

WAKE UP AND SEE ***REALITY*** FOR WHAT IT IS, MUTANTS.

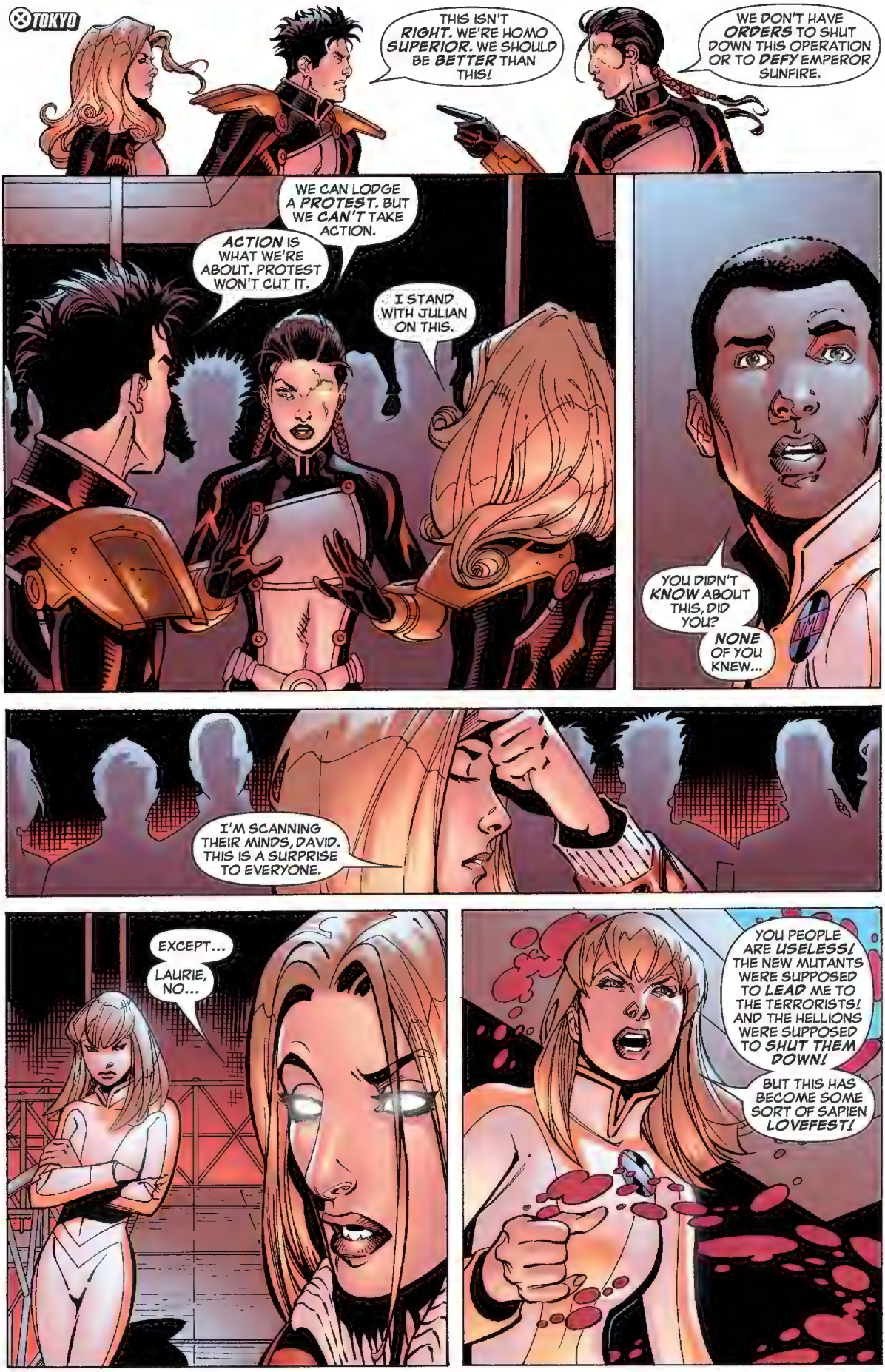
SEE WHAT YOUR ***HOUSE OF M*** HAS WROUGHT.

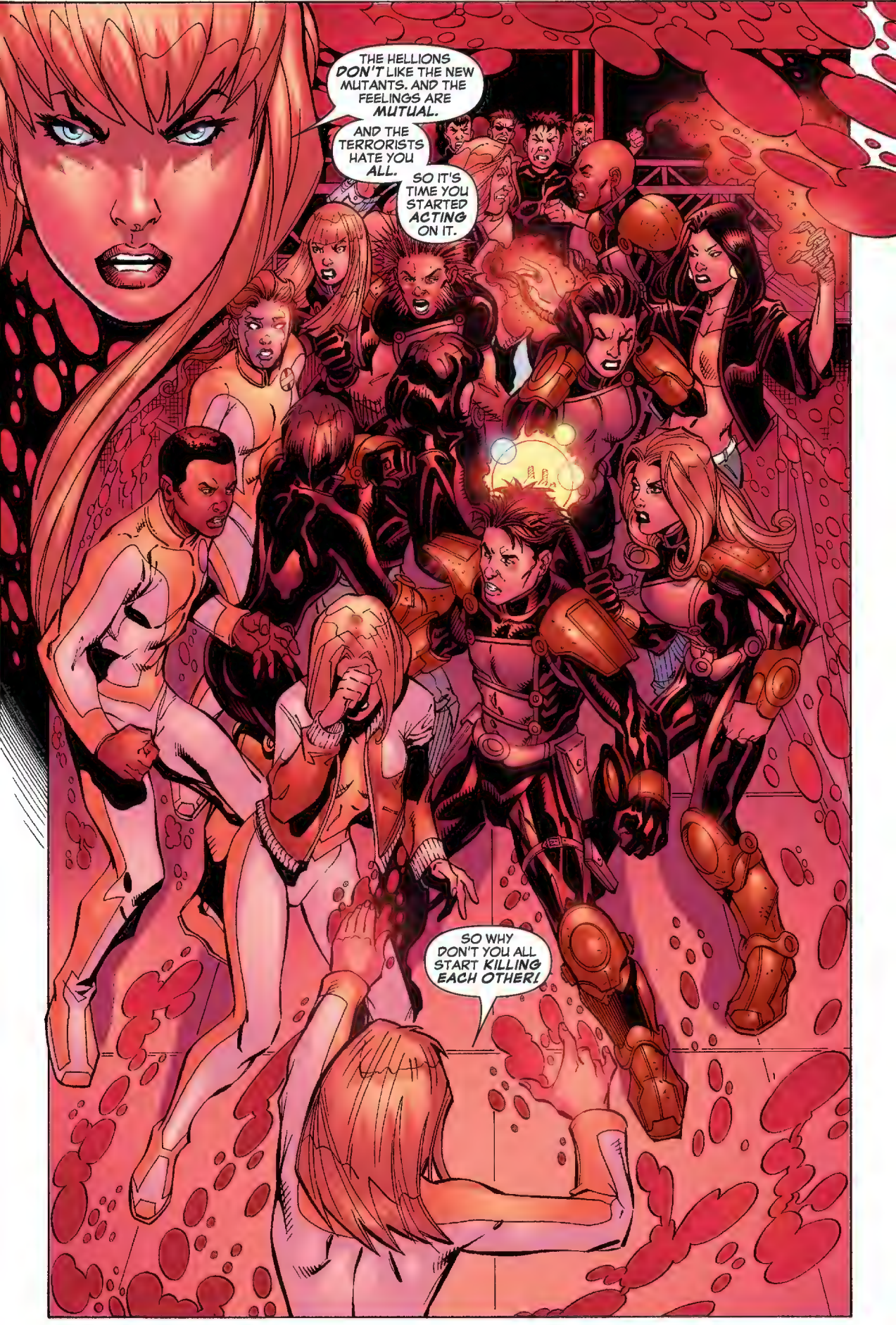
THIS CHANGES ***EVERYTHING.***

DOES IT?

NEW YORK
DOUG, I NEED YOUR HELP.
RIGHT...HELP BREAKING INTO S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES.
I'VE MASTERED ALMOST EVERY LANGUAGE ON THE PLANET, SHAN. WHY DO PEOPLE ALWAYS COME TO ME FOR ILLEGAL COMPUTER HELP?
COMPUTER LAB
1102
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, DOUG RAMSEY.
REMEMBER THAT WHEN IT'S TIME FOR HOLIDAY BONUS CHECKS.
DR. GARRISON, HUH? LET'S GET INTO HIS FILE AND SEE WHY IT'S CLASSIFIED.
WOW...HE'S A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT. DEEP COVER.

I THOUGHT HE WAS A TV PSYCHOLOGIST! HOW IS IT POSSIBLE HE'S A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT?
FIND OUT WHAT HE WORKED ON IN JAPAN.
SMAK!
DON'T TOUCH THAT!
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND. BUT I'LL HAVE TO ACCESS S.H.I.E.L.D.'S JAPAN DIVISION. IT'S NOT IN THE MAIN FILES...
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING CALLED PROJECT GENESIS.
WHAT'S THAT?
THE NEXT STEP IN HUMAN EVOLUTION. A WAY TO GET THE SAPIENS TO ACHIEVE THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL.
MY IDEA.
COMI
THOSE TERRORISTS WERE AFTER YOU, GARRISON.
SO WAS IT... DID YOU KILL QUENTIN?
QUENTIN QUIRE KILLED HIMSELF.
AND PERHAPS SO WILL YOU ONCE MY PHEROMONES DO THEIR JOB.


TOKYO
THIS ISN'T RIGHT. WE'RE HOMO SUPERIOR. WE SHOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS!
WE DON'T HAVE ORDERS TO SHUT DOWN THIS OPERATION OR TO DEFY EMPEROR SUNFIRE.
WE CAN LODGE A PROTEST. BUT WE CAN'T TAKE ACTION.
ACTION IS WHAT WE'RE ABOUT. PROTEST WON'T CUT IT.
I STAND WITH JULIAN ON THIS.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, DID YOU?
NONE OF YOU KNEW...
I'M SCANNING THEIR MINDS, DAVID. THIS IS A SURPRISE TO EVERYONE.
EXCEPT...
LAURIE, NO...
YOU PEOPLE ARE USELESS! THE NEW MUTANTS WERE SUPPOSED TO LEAD ME TO THE TERRORISTS! AND THE HELLIONS WERE SUPPOSED TO SHUT THEM DOWN!
BUT THIS HAS BECOME SOME SORT OF SAPIEN LOVEFEST!


THE HELLIONS DON'T LIKE THE NEW MUTANTS. AND THE FEELINGS ARE MUTUAL.
AND THE TERRORISTS HATE YOU ALL.
SO IT'S TIME YOU STARTED ACTING ON IT.
SO WHY DON'T YOU ALL START KILLING EACH OTHER!

NEW X-MEN #19

NEW MUTANT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, NEW YORK
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THESE FILES TO MY ATTENTION.
TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE FOUND OUT TOO MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECT GENESIS. AND ABOUT ME.
LUCKILY YOU'VE FOUND THE FILES I NEED TO DELETE TO CLEAN THIS UP.
S-STAY AWAY, GARRISON!
NOW...WHAT TO DO ABOUT YOU TWO?
MY FEAR PHEROMONES CAN KEEP YOU FROM USING YOUR ABILITIES ON ME. THEY CAN EVEN GET YOU SO SCARED, YOU'LL DIE OF FRIGHT!
BUT THAT'S HARDLY THE MOST FUN I CAN HAVE, IS IT?
HOW ABOUT... A JEALOUS AFFAIR? I'LL MAKE YOU TWO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. THEN KILL ONE ANOTHER!
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT WIRED THAT WAY, MISS MANH. BUT DON'T WORRY.
MY PHEROMONES ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU FEEL ANYTHING, AND CONTROLLED ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU FEEL IT FOR ANYONE.
HEY, DR. GARRISON...

TAG! YOU'RE IT!
MUST... GET... AWAY.
YOU THINK YOU'RE THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO HOMO SUPERIOR--THAT EVERYONE WANTS TO BE NEAR YOU.
BUT MY POWER MAKES PEOPLE WANT TO GET AWAY FROM YOU!
EXCEPT, SINCE YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN YOUR OWN BIGGEST FAN... I DECIDED TO MAKE IT YOU WHO WANTS TO GET AWAY.
CALL IT MY REVENGE FOR WHAT YOU DID TO QUENTIN.
KSSSH!
NO! MUST...GET... AWAY...
YOU MUST... BUT YOU CAN'T.
MUST... GET... AWAY.
NO... WAIT!
STOP HIM!

THANKS FOR SAVING OUR LIVES, BRIAN...
...BUT I REALLY WISH HE HADN'T KILLED HIMSELF.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...I WANTED TO PAY HIM BACK FOR QUENTIN'S DEATH, BUT...IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.
IT SHOULDN'T.
MAYBE I CAN GET THESE FILES BACK--BUT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG THAT WILL TAKE. WE MAY NEVER KNOW EXACTLY WHAT GENESIS WAS.
AND WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER BE ABLE TO PROVE A THING.
MS. MANH... MR. RAMSEY...
IF DR. GARRISON WAS DOING SOMETHING ILLEGAL AND TRYING TO KILL YOU...
...THEN SHOULDN'T WE BE WORRIED ABOUT LAURIE, TOO?

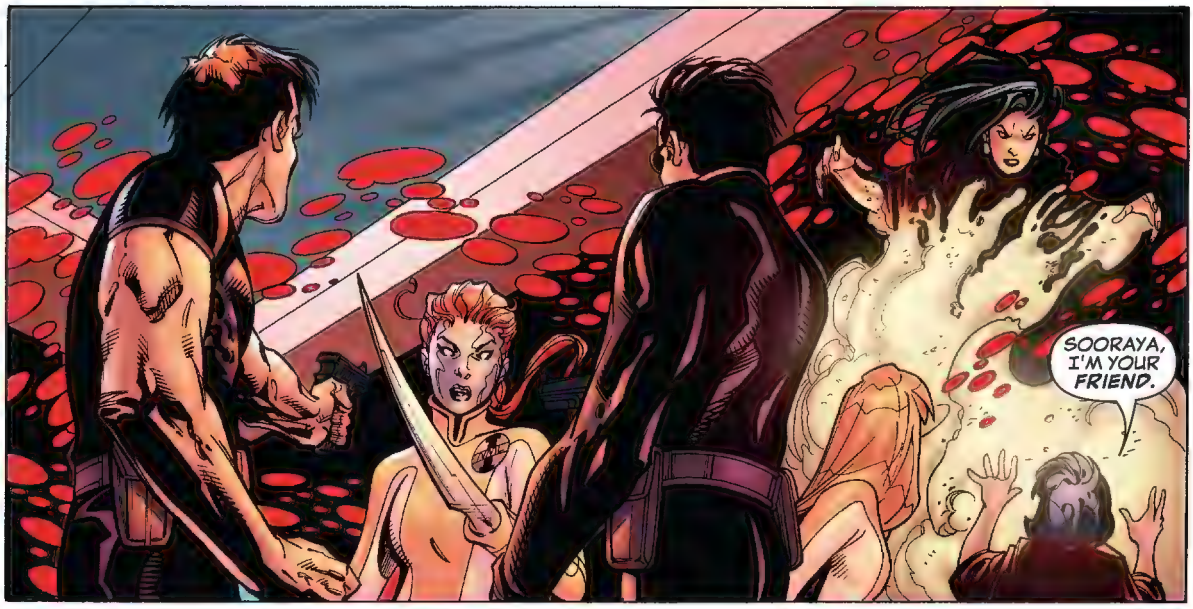
HOUSE DIVIDED PART 4 OF 4
INSIDE PROJECT GENESIS, TOKYO
"AFTER ALL, SHE WAS VERY CLOSE TO HER FATHER!"
THIS IS FUN!
THE NEW MUTANTS AND THE HELLIONS NEVER LIKED EACH OTHER.
LET'S SEE WHICH TEAM LIVES LONGER!

KILL HIM, SAPIEN.
BLAM!
<THE MUTANT IS DOWN. FINISH HIM!>
MAX!
SHK!
SHK!
EVERETT... DON'T!
NO!

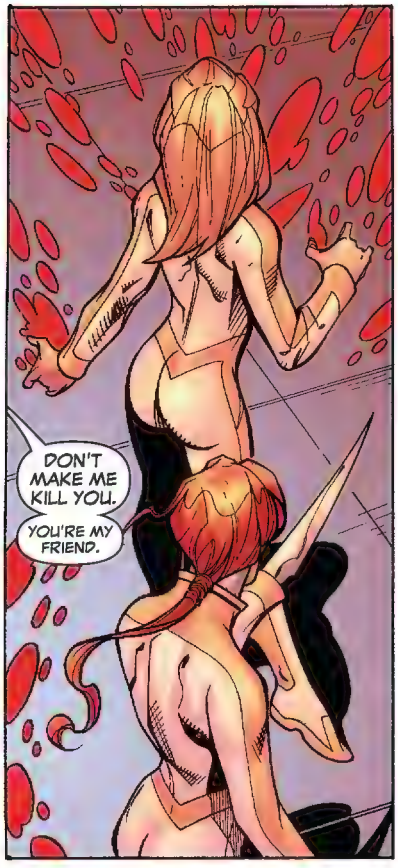
W-WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
LAURIE...IT'S ME. YOUR ROOMMATE. YOUR FRIEND. WHAT'S GOING ON?
AH, CESSILY, IMMUNE TO MY POWERS. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD MAKE SOMEONE HATE YOU SPECIFICALLY, JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T STOP ME.
BUT, YOU ARE MY BEST FRIEND.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS! DID S.H.I.E.L.D. GET A HOLD OF YOU?
S.H.I.E.L.D.? PLEASE.
MOST OF S.H.I.E.L.D. IS CLUELESS. THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT PEOPLE LIKE MY FATHER HAVE TO DO TO MAKE MAGNETO'S PERFECT WORLD WORK.
BUT DAD DOES IT ANYWAY. WE DO IT. WHAT WE HAVE TO.
STILL, CESS... YOU ARE MY FRIEND, AND I DON'T THINK I HAVE IT IN ME TO KILL YOU.
SO I'LL LET THEM DO IT.

〈YOUR FREAKISH NATURE GOT ME CAST OUT FROM THE EMPEROR'S CIRCLE, NORIKO.〉
〈NO, YOU DID THAT YOURSELF, FATHER, WHEN YOU TRIED TO STIFLE MY ABILITIES. HIDE WHO I WAS!〉
YOU CAN'T HIT ME, SCION. I CAN SEE YOUR ATTACKS COMING A MILE AWAY.
AND YOU CAN'T DODGE ME FOREVER, ALLEYNE.
BLAM!
YOU WON'T BE ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO HURT HIM, JULIAN.
AND HERE'S THE TRAITOR, GONE BACK TO HER SAPIEN DADDY AND HER NEW MUTANT BUDDIES!
NORIKO, DON'T OVEREXTEND YOURSELF. I CAN HANDLE JULIAN.
HIS FORCE FIELD WON'T HOLD BACK LIGHTNING FOREVER, DAVID. IT DOESN'T MOVE IN A STRAIGHT LINE.
SCION NEEDS ROOM TO WORK.
I CAN GIVE HIM THAT.

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN, SHALL WE? WHAT HAPPENS IF WE CHANGE THE TARGETS OF THE HATRED? AND MAYBE LET ANOTHER OF MY LAB RATS HAVE SOME FREE WILL!
YOU CLAIMED TO BE MY FRIEND!
BUT LOOK AT ME! I'M A JOKE!
SOORAYA, IT'S ME. YOUR PAL, JUBES!
I REMEMBER MY LIFE BEFORE I CAME TO AMERICA. I HAD FAITH. I HAD MORALS.
I HELPED YOU FIT IN!
FIT IN? YOU MADE ME PATHETIC. A SHALLOW MALL RAT. LIKE YOU!
SHK!
SHK!
SHK!
I'LL KILL YOU.
SOORAYA, PLEASE. DON'T MAKE ME FIGHT YOU!


SOORAYA, I'M YOUR FRIEND.

PLEASE DON'T DO THIS...

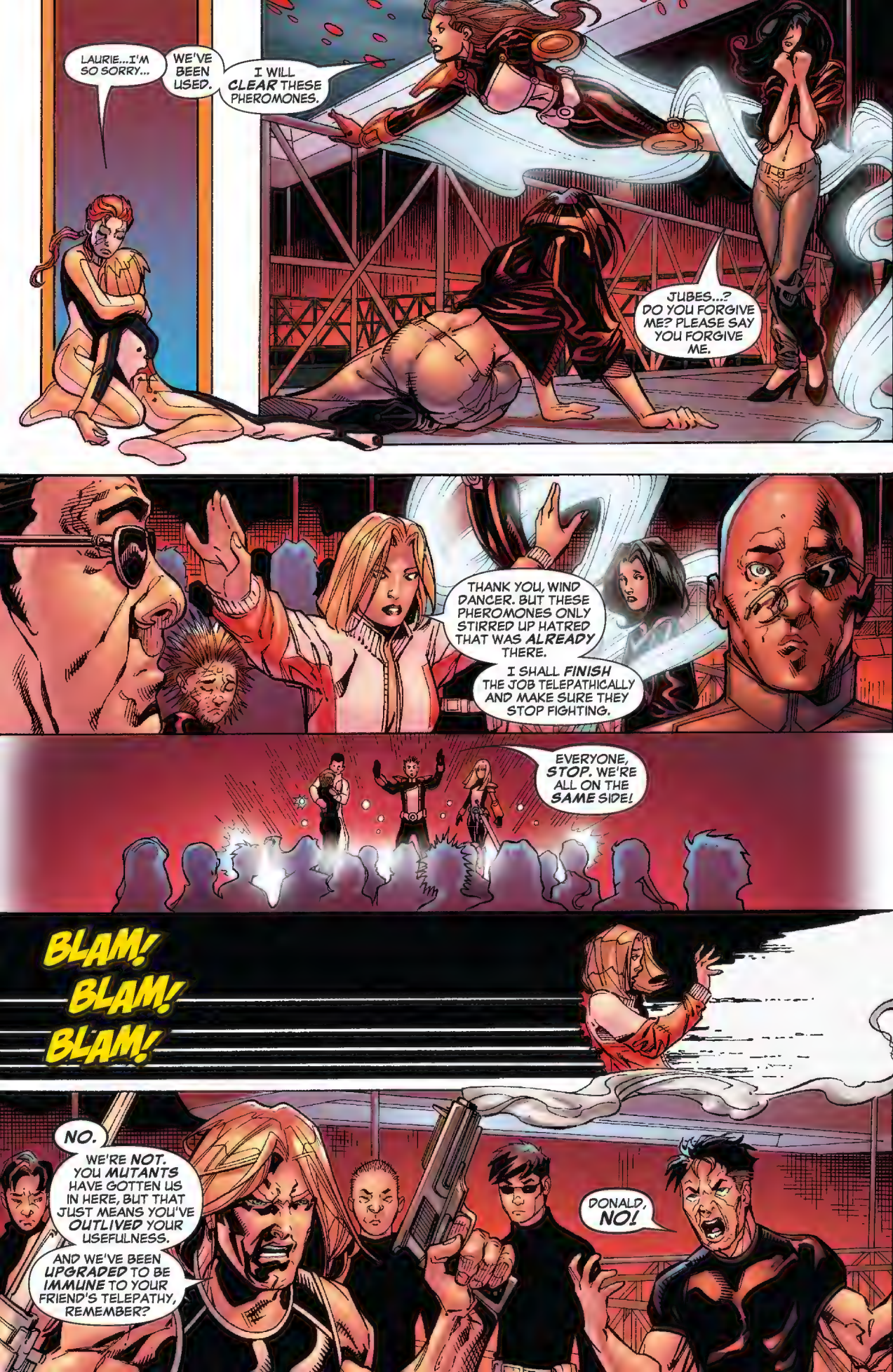

DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU.
YOU'RE MY FRIEND.

YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS HATED THE TWO OF YOU.

YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHOICE, LAURIE.

YOU'RE IN MY PLAY-GROUND NOW.
HEY, WATCH THE SWORD!
A LITTLE SOME-THING S.H.I.E.L.D. GAVE ME. SAID THEY FOUND IT IN SOME MYSTICAL REALM THAT'S TIED TO MY POWERS. MAYBE I'LL VISIT THERE SOMEDAY.
FOR NOW, I THINK ITS MYSTIC NATURE WILL PREVENT YOU FROM AVOIDING IT.
STAY AWAY FROM DAVID!
ZZZZZT!
-KAF, KAF-
NORI!
LOOKS LIKE I CAN HIT YOU WHEN YOU'RE DISTRACTED, ALLEYNE!

HUH? WHAT STOPPED MY FALL?
JULIAN? YOU SAVED ME?
I NEVER LIKED YOU, DAVID. BUT I DON'T WANT YOU DEAD. AND WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE WITH THIS GENESIS THING.
GARRISON PLAYED US FOR FOOLS, BUT WE'RE BEYOND THE REACH OF HER PHEROMONES HERE. THEY'VE WORN OFF NOW.
=KAF, KAF=
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ASHIDA?
ONE OF YOUR S.H.I.E.L.D. TORTURERS GOT A HOLD OF HER FOR A COUPLE MINUTES.
S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS TORTURERS?
NEWS TO ME.
S.H.I.E.L.D.'S DOING A LOT OF THINGS =KAF, KAF= THAT WEREN'T MENTIONED IN OUR TRAINING.
LET'S GET BACK THERE. WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH LAURIE.


LAURIE...I'M SO SORRY...
WE'VE BEEN USED.
I WILL CLEAR THESE PHEROMONES.
JUBES...? DO YOU FORGIVE ME? PLEASE SAY YOU FORGIVE ME.
THANK YOU, WIND DANCER. BUT THESE PHEROMONES ONLY STIRRED UP HATRED THAT WAS ALREADY THERE.
I SHALL FINISH THE JOB TELEPATHICALLY AND MAKE SURE THEY STOP FIGHTING.
EVERYONE, STOP. WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
NO.
WE'RE NOT. YOU MUTANTS HAVE GOTTEN US IN HERE, BUT THAT JUST MEANS YOU'VE OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS.
AND WE'VE BEEN UPGRADED TO BE IMMUNE TO YOUR FRIEND'S TELEPATHY, REMEMBER?
DONALD, NO!

WE MUST WORK WITH THESE MUTANTS. THEY ARE HERE TO HELP.
NO. WE STAND FOR HUMANITY. THEY STAND FOR OPPRESSION!
I'LL KILL YOU BEFORE I LET YOU FORCE US INTO COWING BEFORE THEM, SEIJI.
YOU'VE KILLED ENOUGH, MANIAC.
AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!
YOU THINK I WANT TO WORK WITH YOU?
WE SHOULD STOP THEM.
LET THEM FIGHT. THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO SHUT DOWN GENESIS.
AGENT MOONSTAR CAN HANDLE HIM.
SOPHIE'S DEAD.
I LED SOPHIE TO THIS. THIS IS MY FAULT.
YOURS AND MINE, DAVID. EVERETT'S DEATH IS ON MY HEAD.

‹HE HAS ENGAGED IN A PERSONAL FIGHT. WE WILL PROCEED WITH THE PLAN AND SHUT DOWN GENESIS.›
‹I AM YOUR LEADER, NOT DONALD.›
GUYS, IF WE'RE GONNA TAKE DOWN GENESIS, WE SHOULD DO IT SOON, BECAUSE WITH SOPHIE DOWN, THE GUARDS--
...
KRK
KRK
KSSH
MAX! NO!
HE WAS MY FRIEND!
AND YOU'LL PAY FOR HIS DEATH.
SNAP!

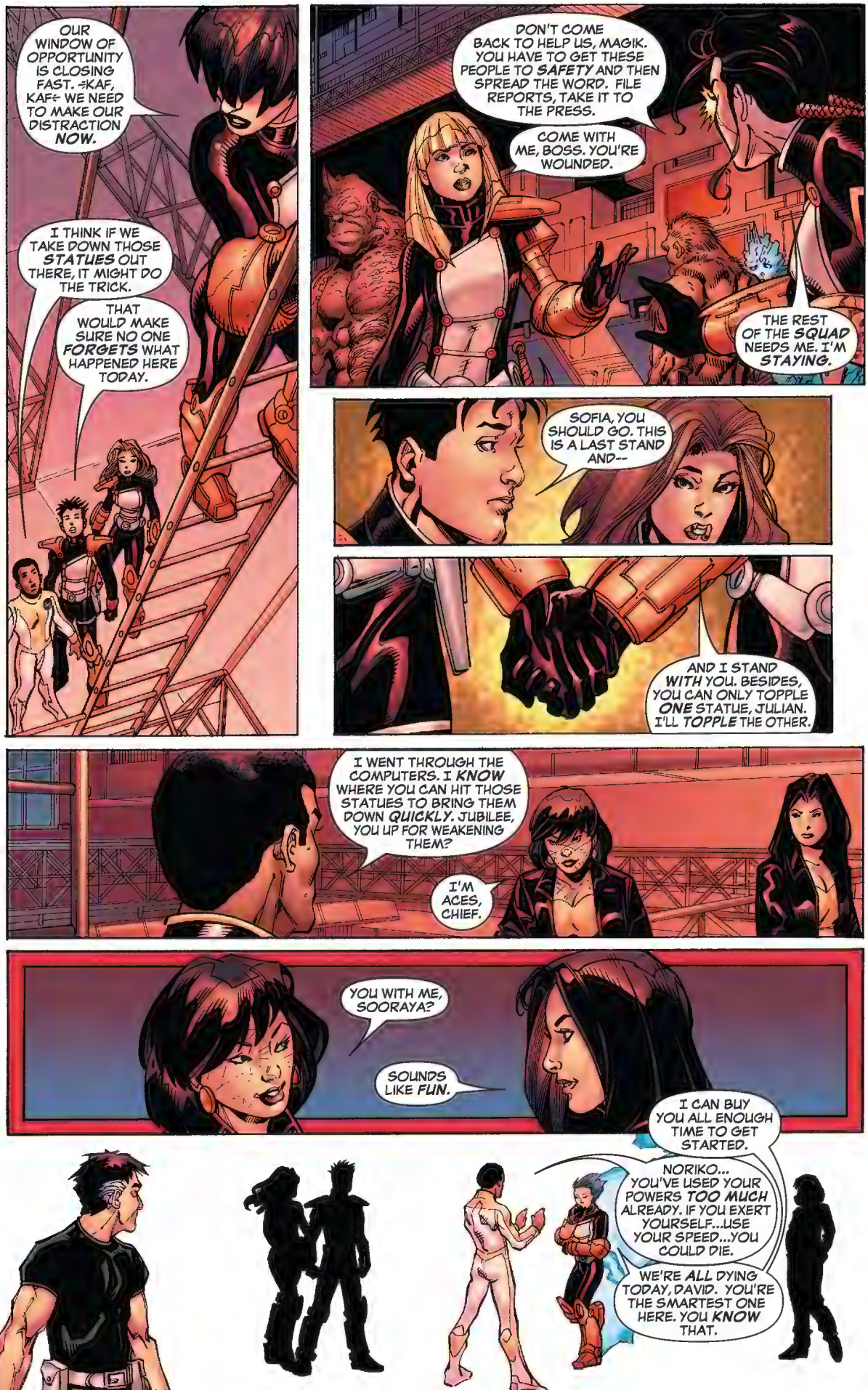
HOW'D YOU LOSE THE EYE, MUTANT?
A SAPIEN LIKE YOU TOOK IT. BUT HE LOST A LOT MORE.
YOU WON'T FIND ME SUCH EASY PREY. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
YOUR ILLUSION POWERS ARE USELESS AGAINST MY UPGRADES.
SHKK!
I DON'T NEED POWERS TO DEAL WITH YOU.
I'M HOMO SUPERIOR, WITH OR WITHOUT THEM.
AND YOU'RE FINISHED!
THK!

WHAT KIND OF A SICK MUTANT WOULD GUARD A PLACE LIKE THIS...? WOULD KILL A GUY LIKE MAX?
ASHIDA'S MEN HAVE DEFEATED THE REMAINING GUARDS, JULIAN.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAD THIS SQUAD. EVERETT IS DEAD. MAX IS DEAD...
I TOLD YOU... I KNEW I'D FAIL AND SOMEONE WOULD DIE.
I COULD GET YOU KILLED NEXT, AND I...I DON'T KNOW HOW I'D DEAL WITH THAT, SOPHIA.
BUT I'M HERE, JULIAN. YOU HAVEN'T LOST ME.
YOU ARE A FINE LEADER. MAX AND EVERETT'S DEATHS ARE NOT YOUR FAULT.
COME ON, SCION. WE'VE GOT A CAUSE HERE. WE NEED TO DISMANTLE THIS PLACE AND YOUR TELEKINESIS IS OUR STRONGEST WEAPON.
THEN LET'S DO IT.

BY AUTHORITY OF S.H.I.E.L.D., PROJECT GENESIS IS HEREBY SHUT DOWN!
<YOU ARE FREE. ALL OF YOU!>
<THANK YOU!>
<I'M SO SORRY THIS WAS DONE TO YOU. SOMEONE WILL PAY, I ASSURE YOU.>
THOOM!
<UH, GUYS... SOMETHING'S GOING ON OUTSIDE.>
<WE WILL SECURE THE PERIMETER.>
<NO... WAIT.>
THOOM!
=KAF, KAF=
UH-OH...

〈INSURGENTS! YOUR RAID IS FINISHED!〉
〈YOU ARE FINISHED!〉

NORI, HOW BAD IS IT?
REALLY BAD. MY DAD'S MEN... THEY'RE ALL DOWN.
I'LL TELEPORT US OUT OF HERE!
NO, THEY'LL TRACK US. THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE, THEY'LL KEEP HUNTING US. WE BOLT NOW, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGHT LATER.
AND THESE PEOPLE WE'VE RESCUED AREN'T UP FOR A FIGHT.
<MY MEN INSIDE HAVE INFORMED ME THAT THE HELLIONS SQUAD HAS JOINED YOUR MISGUIDED REBELLION.>
<FOR THEIR SAKE, I OFFER YOU ONE CHANCE TO SURRENDER.>
IF WE SURRENDER, WE MAY NEVER BE HEARD FROM AGAIN!
WE'LL BE SILENCED AT LEAST LONG ENOUGH FOR THEM TO CLEAN UP GENESIS AND KILL THESE WITNESSES.
THEN WE DON'T SURRENDER.
TELL YOUR TELEPORTER TO GET THE INNOCENT SAPIENS OUT OF HERE. THE REST OF US WILL BUY THEM TIME.


OUR WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY IS CLOSING FAST. ÷KAF, KAF÷ WE NEED TO MAKE OUR DISTRACTION NOW.
I THINK IF WE TAKE DOWN THOSE STATUES OUT THERE, IT MIGHT DO THE TRICK.
THAT WOULD MAKE SURE NO ONE FORGETS WHAT HAPPENED HERE TODAY.
DON'T COME BACK TO HELP US, MAGIK. YOU HAVE TO GET THESE PEOPLE TO SAFETY AND THEN SPREAD THE WORD. FILE REPORTS, TAKE IT TO THE PRESS.
COME WITH ME, BOSS. YOU'RE WOUNDED.
THE REST OF THE SQUAD NEEDS ME. I'M STAYING.
SOFIA, YOU SHOULD GO. THIS IS A LAST STAND AND--
AND I STAND WITH YOU. BESIDES, YOU CAN ONLY TOPPLE ONE STATUE, JULIAN. I'LL TOPPLE THE OTHER.
I WENT THROUGH THE COMPUTERS. I KNOW WHERE YOU CAN HIT THOSE STATUES TO BRING THEM DOWN QUICKLY. JUBILEE, YOU UP FOR WEAKENING THEM?
I'M ACES, CHIEF.
YOU WITH ME, SOORAYA?
SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
I CAN BUY YOU ALL ENOUGH TIME TO GET STARTED.
NORIKO... YOU'VE USED YOUR POWERS TOO MUCH ALREADY. IF YOU EXERT YOURSELF...USE YOUR SPEED...YOU COULD DIE.
WE'RE ALL DYING TODAY, DAVID. YOU'RE THE SMARTEST ONE HERE. YOU KNOW THAT.

ILOVE YOUDAVID!
NORIKO, DON'T!
<HOLD YOUR FIRE!>
<I KNOW THAT GIRL.>
=KAF KAF=
TELL EVERYONE WHAT YOUR HELLIONS DID TODAY, ILLYANA.
I WILL.
=KAF KAF=
<NORIKO, MY CHILD...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?>
<YOU ARE NOT...KAF, KAF... MY FATHER.>
<MY FATHER IS A REBEL...KAF, KAF...AND SO AM I.>

<NORIKO!>
<WHA--?>
RRRRRMBBBBLLL
KRRRRKMMM

KILL THEM ALL!

BLAM!
BLAM!
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
BLAM!
BLAM!

THE END

EXILES #69

THE WORLD WE KNEW...

Parallel universes. Alternate realities. Some are like the world we know, others completely different. And a few tragic realities are damaged, twisted and downright dangerous. That's where you'll find the EXILES — a team of mutants who repair the broken links in the chains of Time, restoring the cosmic balance.

PREVIOUSLY

Plucked from their own separate realities, BLINK, SABRETOOTH, MIMIC, MORPH, BEAK and HEATHER HUDSON were forced to undertake impossible missions, risking their lives to save one imperiled Earth after another. Finally, they turned the tables and took over the Crystal Palace — an observatory outside space and time overlooking the countless realities that make up the Multiverse. At long last, the Exiles are back in control of their own destinies.

However, the team is at a crossroads. Will they continue repairing broken worlds, or will they stop meddling in other realities and return at last to their former lives? One thing is certain: they will not force Beak to continue as an Exile. The youngest, most vulnerable member of the team will be returned to his home on Earth #616. Unfortunately, while they were gone, Earth #616 has been drastically rearranged...

HOUSE OF M
EXILES

THE WORLD WE NOW LIVE IN...

The world has been remade. In the new world, ERIK MAGNUS, the man known as MAGNETO, won his war in defense of mutant-kind. He has made a better life for all mutants, or Homo Superior, and the world is under his control. Homo Superior live ideal lives and outnumber their genetic predecessors, Homo Sapiens. The remaining Homo Sapiens must live in a world now dominated by mutants.
Welcome to the HOUSE OF M.

WORLD TOUR

HOUSE OF M

Part I of III

THERE IS A **WAR** BEING FOUGHT RIGHT HERE IN AMERICA.

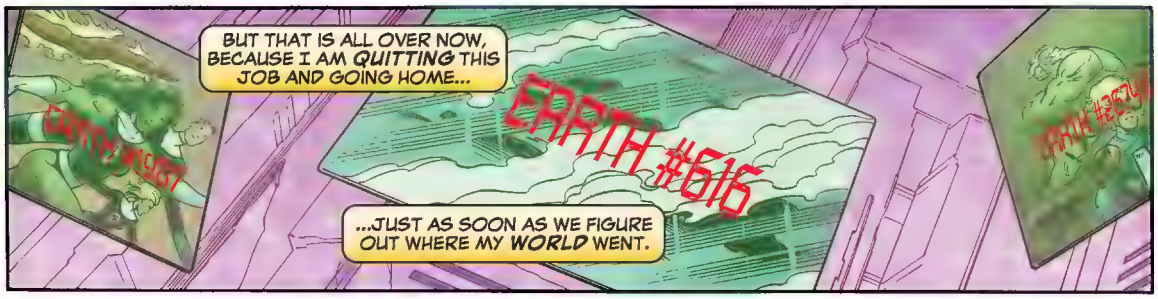
ON ONE SIDE ARE **MUTANTS**--SUPER-PEOPLE WHO MOSTLY WANT TO GET ALONG WITH THE REST OF MANKIND.

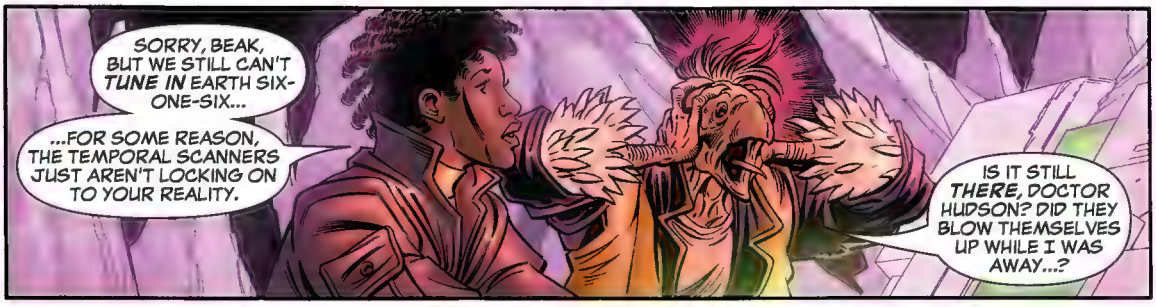
ON THE OTHER SIDE ARE **NORMAL** FOLKS TRYING EVERYTHING FROM SPECIAL LAWS TO KILLER ROBOTS TO KEEP MUTANTS IN CHECK.

THEY'RE **SCARED** OF TEENAGERS WHO CAN TOSS THEM INTO ORBIT OR MELT THEIR BRAINS--AND WHO CAN BLAME THEM? I USED TO BE AFRAID OF MUTANTS, TOO...

...AND THEN ONE DAY I FOUND OUT I WAS ONE.
BUT I DO NOT HAVE A COOL POWER, LIKE LASER-BREATH OR PERFECT HAIR. NO, I JUST TURNED INTO SOMETHING THAT WOULD PUT YOU OFF CHICKEN FOREVER.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, MY PARENTS WERE WORRIED. BUT THEY FOUND A SCHOOL IN UPSTATE NEW YORK THAT SPECIALIZES IN KIDS WITH MY "AFFLICTION."
AND THAT IS HOW I, BARNELL BOHUSK--A.K.A THE BEAK--ENDED UP AT THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING...
...WHERE, EVEN AMONG FREAKS, I STILL GOT STARED AT.
I WAS PLACED IN MISTER XORN'S REMEDIAL CLASS, AND I MET THE GIRL OF MY DREAMS-- ANGEL SALVATORE.
BEFORE LONG, ANGEL AND I HAD OUR OWN PLACE, AND SIX BEAUTIFUL KIDS TO RAISE.
AND THEN MY LIFE GOT REALLY WEIRD...

THESE STRANGERS SHOWED UP SAYING SOMETHING WAS TERRIBLY WRONG WITH THE WORLD AND THEY WERE HERE TO FIX IT.
THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE EXILES.
THEY TRAVEL FROM DIMENSION TO DIMENSION, PARALLEL UNIVERSE TO PARALLEL UNIVERSE. YOU KNOW, LIKE IN THAT "SLIDERS" SHOW?
IT TURNS OUT THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF ALTERNATE EARTHS OUT THERE, WHERE, SURELY, I MUST BE BETTER LOOKING.
THE EXILES VISIT REALITIES HEADED FOR DISASTER AND STEER THEM BACK ON TRACK. USUALLY BY BEATING SOMEONE UP.
THEY SAID I HAD TO LEAVE MY FAMILY AND JOIN THEIR TEAM.
SO I SPENT THE LAST FEW MONTHS SAVING ONE MESSED-UP EARTH AFTER ANOTHER.
WE'VE FOUGHT BAD MUTANTS, AN EVIL WIZARD, A LIVING PLANET... ONE TIME WE EVEN SAVED THE WORLD WITH A CHEESE DANISH.
REALLY. I AM NOT MAKING THIS STUFF UP.

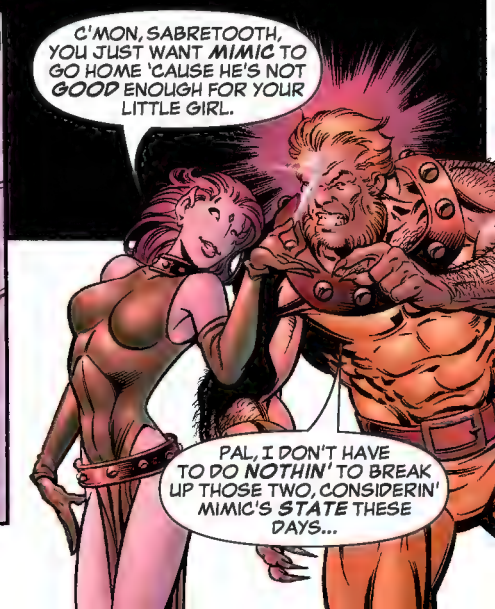

BUT THAT IS ALL OVER NOW, BECAUSE I AM QUITTING THIS JOB AND GOING HOME...
EARTH #616
...JUST AS SOON AS WE FIGURE OUT WHERE MY WORLD WENT.


SORRY, BEAK, BUT WE STILL CAN'T TUNE IN EARTH SIX-ONE-SIX...
...FOR SOME REASON, THE TEMPORAL SCANNERS JUST AREN'T LOCKING ON TO YOUR REALITY.
IS IT STILL THERE, DOCTOR HUDSON? DID THEY BLOW THEMSELVES UP WHILE I WAS AWAY...?

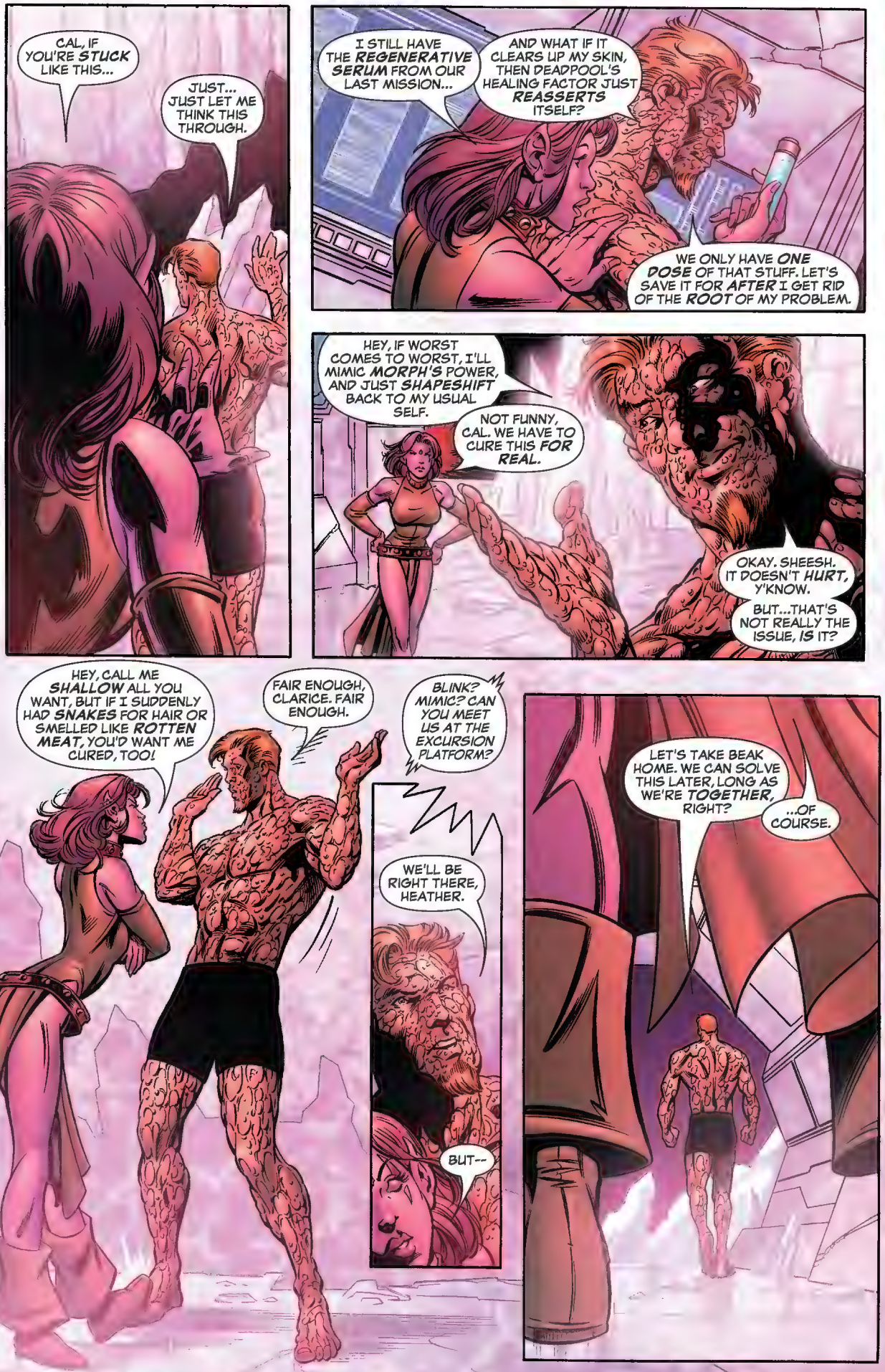
THE "CRYSTAL PALACE" OUTSIDE SPACE AND TIME
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE TILL THE TIMEBREAKERS FINISH REPAIRING THIS PLACE--
--BUT WE'RE DEFINITELY READING SOMETHING THERE. IF WE HAVE TO, WE'LL 'PORT IN BLIND AND SEE FOR OURSELVES.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN WE WERE GIVEN ALL THE ANSWERS GOING IN?
WE ENDED 'EM, MORPH.
AND ONCE WE DROP OFF CHICKEN LITTLE, WE SHOULD KEEP RIGHT ON GOIN' TO YOUR EARTH, AND MIMIC'S, AND SO ON, TILL WE'RE ALL HOME.

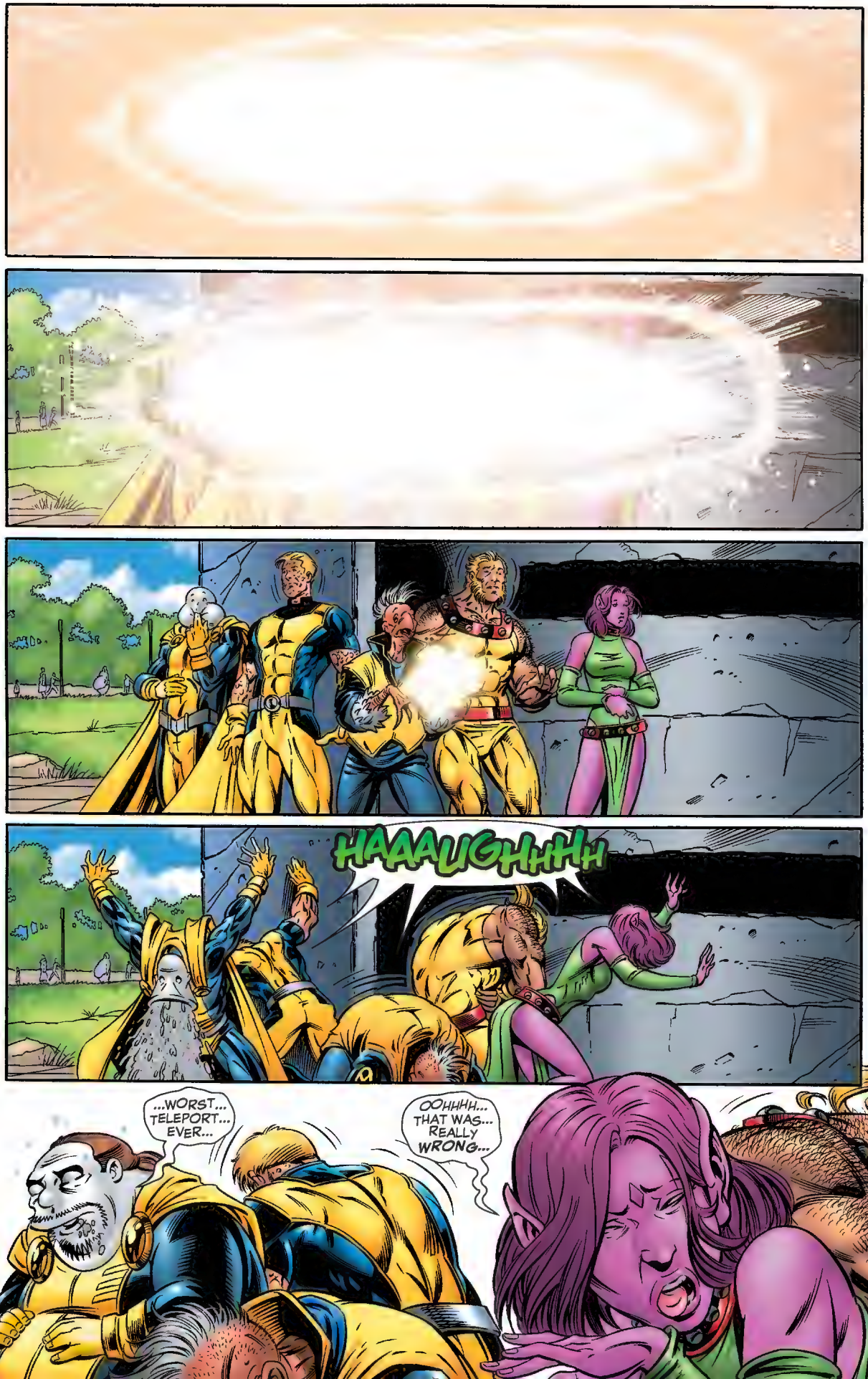
AND ABANDON THE OTHER WORLDS THE TIMEBREAKERS DOOMED?
NO HARM DID WE INTEND--!


C'MON, SABRETOOTH, YOU JUST WANT MIMIC TO GO HOME 'CAUSE HE'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOUR LITTLE GIRL.
PAL, I DON'T HAVE TO DO NOTHIN' TO BREAK UP THOSE TWO, CONSIDERIN' MIMIC'S STATE THESE DAYS...

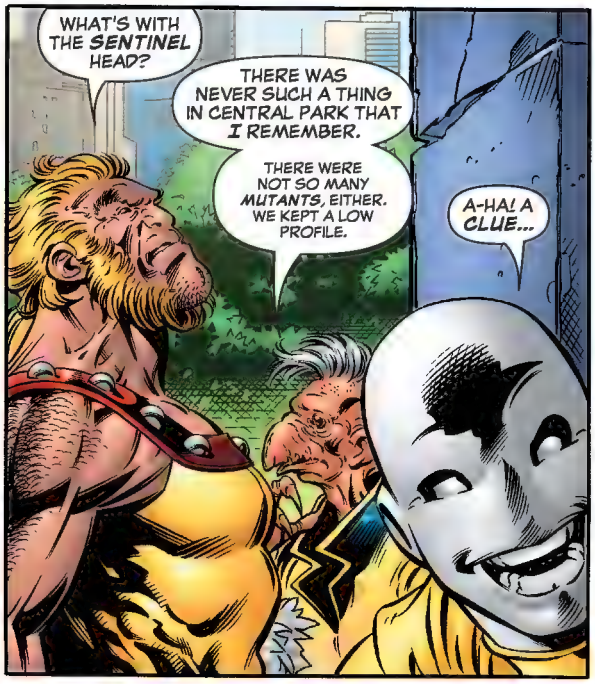
THE INFIRMARY
DON'T WORRY, BABY, I WON'T LOOK LIKE GROUND CHUCK FOR MUCH LONGER.
IT'S THE HEALING FACTOR I MIMICKED OFF DEADPOOL. IT SAVED MY LIFE, BUT THE SIDE EFFECTS WON'T WIN ME ANY BEAUTY CONTESTS.
I KNOW. HEATHER SAID IT'S SOME SORT OF AUTO-IMMUNE RESPONSE TURNING YOUR SKIN INTO SCAR TISSUE OR SOMETHING...
WELL, ONCE I MIMIC YOUR MUTANT TALENT, IT'LL DISPLACE DEADPOOL'S, AND...
...AND...
...HOLD ON...
...WHY ISN'T THIS WORKING...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU KNOW HOW IN ORDER TO COPY A NEW POWER, I HAVE TO GIVE UP AN OLD ONE?
RIGHT.
AND I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO CHOOSE WHICH OF MY POWERS I GIVE UP.
...BUT FOR SOME REASON DEADPOOL'S LITTLE CURSE JUST WON'T LET GO.
MAYBE IT'S RESISTING MY WILL THE WAY IT WOULD FIGHT A DISEASE... I DON'T KNOW...


CAL, IF YOU'RE STUCK LIKE THIS...
JUST... JUST LET ME THINK THIS THROUGH.
I STILL HAVE THE REGENERATIVE SERUM FROM OUR LAST MISSION...
AND WHAT IF IT CLEARS UP MY SKIN, THEN DEADPOOL'S HEALING FACTOR JUST REASSERTS ITSELF?
WE ONLY HAVE ONE DOSE OF THAT STUFF. LET'S SAVE IT FOR AFTER I GET RID OF THE ROOT OF MY PROBLEM.
HEY, IF WORST COMES TO WORST, I'LL MIMIC MORPH'S POWER, AND JUST SHAPESHIFT BACK TO MY USUAL SELF.
NOT FUNNY, CAL. WE HAVE TO CURE THIS FOR REAL.
OKAY. SHEESH. IT DOESN'T HURT, Y'KNOW.
BUT...THAT'S NOT REALLY THE ISSUE, IS IT?
HEY, CALL ME SHALLOW ALL YOU WANT, BUT IF I SUDDENLY HAD SNAKES FOR HAIR OR SMELLED LIKE ROTTEN MEAT, YOU'D WANT ME CURED, TOO!
FAIR ENOUGH, CLARICE. FAIR ENOUGH.
BLINK? MIMIC? CAN YOU MEET US AT THE EXCURSION PLATFORM?
WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE, HEATHER.
BUT--
LET'S TAKE BEAK HOME. WE CAN SOLVE THIS LATER, LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER, RIGHT?
...OF COURSE.

THE EXCURSION PLATFORM
I THOUGHT YOU TWO FIGURED OUT HOW TO CLEAR UP THIS SKIN THING.
WE HIT A SNAG, HEATHER. NOTHING THAT CAN'T WAIT TILL LATER.
i am not an animal!
OKAY. REMEMBER HOW WE WERE ALL TOLD WE'D BEEN "UNHINGED FROM TIME"?
WELL, THE TIMEBREAKERS HAVE RE-HINGED BEAK. HE'S BACK IN SYNC WITH HIS NATIVE REALITY AND READY TO GO HOME FOR GOOD.
BUT WE STILL CAN'T SEE EARTH SIX-ONE-SIX ON THE VIEW SCREENS. IT'S THERE, BUT SOMETHING IS PREVENTING CLEAR RECEPTION.
SO YOU'RE GOING IN BLIND. I CAN KEEP YOU FROM MATERIALIZING IN SOMETHING SOLID, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL GREET YOU.
WHY IS THIS PARTICULAR EARTH ALWAYS SUCH A PAIN IN THE BUTT?
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COME--YOU HAVE ALL DONE ENOUGH FOR ME. BUT I CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER, NOT KNOWING IF MY FAMILY IS SAFE.
WE'RE NOT GONNA DUMP YOU INTO THE GREAT UNKNOWN, BARNELL.
USE THE TALLUS TO CONTACT ME AS SOON AS YOU'RE THERE!
FAASSH


HAAAUGHHHH
...WORST... TELEPORT... EVER...
OOHHHH... THAT WAS... REALLY WRONG...

...LET'S... LET'S BE READY TO MOVE...
...IN CASE OUR ARRIVAL ATTRACTED...
...UNWANTED ATTENTION...?
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THAT OUTTA PLACE AFTER ALL.


WHAT'S WITH THE SENTINEL HEAD?
THERE WAS NEVER SUCH A THING IN CENTRAL PARK THAT I REMEMBER.
THERE WERE NOT SO MANY MUTANTS, EITHER. WE KEPT A LOW PROFILE.
A-HA! A CLUE...

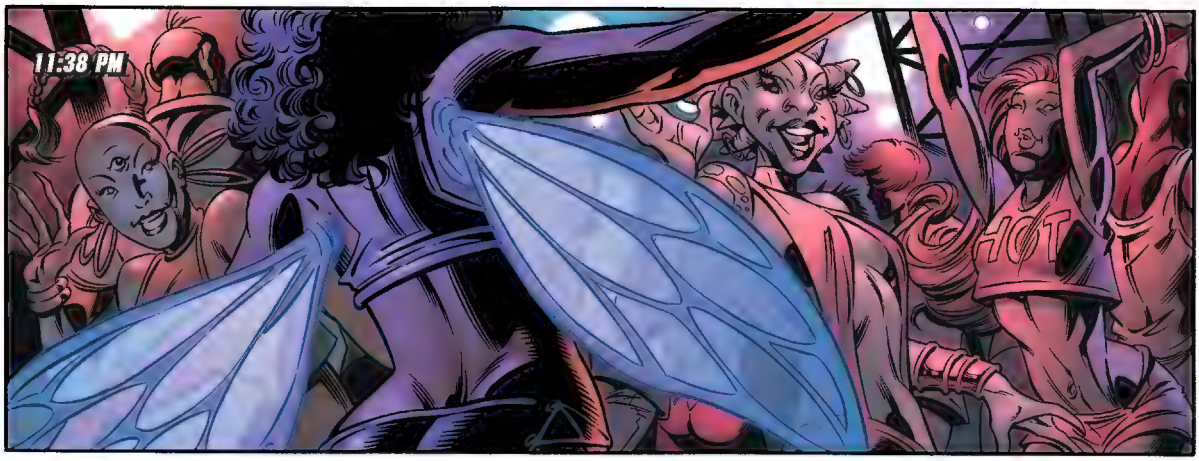
THE PLAQUE SAYS THIS IS THE HOUSE OF M TRIBUTE MEMORIAL... THE MUTANT BLOOD LOST HERE WAS THE LAST THAT WILL EVER BE LOST IN WAR. --MAGNUS
WE'VE BEEN TO THIS REALITY TWICE BEFORE. NEVER HEARD OF NO "HOUSE OF M."

HEATHER, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YEAH, SABRETOOTH, BUT I STILL CAN'T SEE YOU. WE'RE TRYING TO BOOST THE SIGNAL--WE'LL NEED IT TO EXTRACT YOU.
SOUNDS LIKE HISTORY MIGHT'VE CHANGED HERE SINCE YOUR LAST VISIT. CAN YOU FIGURE OUT HOW?
NOT YET. IF I WERE YOU, I'D DO SOME RECON.
TIMES SQUARE
45 MINUTES LATER...
GOING ON CONTEXT, I'D SAY "SAPIEN" IS WHAT THEY CALL NON-MUTANTS. AND BY THE LOOK OF THINGS, SAPIENS ARE DEFINITELY THE MINORITY NOW.
HOW COULD THINGS HAVE CHANGED THIS MUCH?
NEWSTAND
LOOKS AS IF MAGNETO IS A HEAD OF STATE--AND A PRETTY WELL LOVED ONE AT THAT.
BUGLE
FINAL
FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER
OM/MAGNUS TOMORROW
MUTANT X" ER STRIKES AGAIN
CAN WE PLEASE JUST FIND OUT IF ANGEL AND THE KIDS ARE OKAY?

SENTINELS?!
SOMEBODY STILL HATES MUTANTS.
NO, WAIT...
...THE CROWD'S NOT EVEN REACTING. LIKE THEY SEE THEM EVERY DAY...
LIKE COPS ON PATROL.
Y'THINK MAGNETO PROGRAMMED 'EM?
COULD THIS BE THE FIRST REALITY WE'VE VISITED THAT'S ACTUALLY BEEN IMPROVED?
OH, MY GAWD...!

...IT'S ANGEL!
Why wear anything else?
MAYBE IT JUST LOOKS LIKE HER.
WHY IS SHE UP THERE?
CALM DOWN, BEAK. IT PROBABLY JUST MEANS SHE'S DOING WELL, RIGHT?
WE'LL CHECK XAVIER'S. BUT IF FOR SOME REASON SHE'S MOVED, WE'LL FIND HER.
OKAY... OKAY...
...SHE PROBABLY JUST DID THIS MODELING THING TO FEED THE KIDS...
...SHE WOULD NOT HAVE FOUND SOMEONE ELSE BY NOW, RIGHT...?

DOWNTOWN 11:03PM
I SAID NO SAPIENS! THIS IS A MUTANTS-ONLY CLUB.
NOW BEAT FEET!
YOU GONNA SEND ME HOME, TOO, BLUNDERBUSS?
AH, HELL NO, ANGEL! FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THIS CLUB WAS BUILT FOR YOU!
SWEET-TALKER! KEEP IT UP, AN' ONE DAY I JUST MIGHT FALL FOR IT...
DON'T TEASE, ANGEL. YOU'D BREAK ALL SEVEN OF MY HEARTS!


11:38 PM
HOT

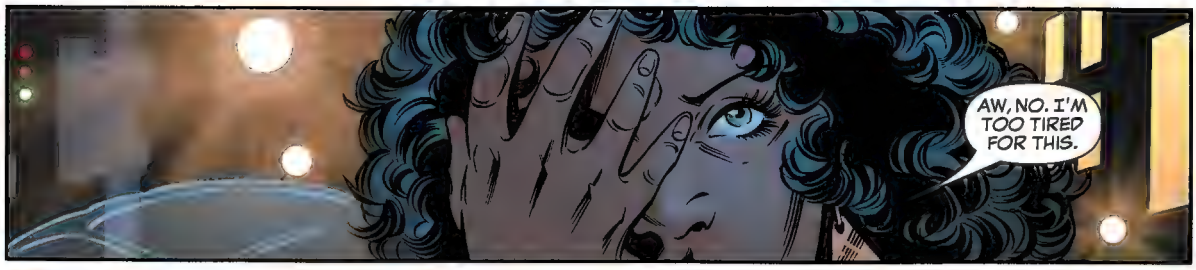
12:47 AM

2:16 AM

2:52 AM
DAILY BUGLE
VON DOOM/MAGNUS SUMMIT TOMORROW
BETTER NOT BE LOOKIN' AT NO WANT ADS, BLUNDERBUSS. I'LL STOP COMIN' IF YOU STOP WORKIN' THE DOOR.
JUST CHECKING HOW MY STOCKS DID, ANGEL.
YOUR STOCKS? MAYBE I REALLY WILL LET YA BUY ME DINNER SOMETIME.
YOU JUST BE CAREFUL WALKING HOME, GIRL!
YOU, TOO, PAL. STREETS AIN'T SAFE THESE DAYS.
AYE, THEY'RE CERTAINLY NOT.
FOLLOWING WEEKS OF DENIAL, POLICE CONFIRM THAT THE DESICCATED CORPSES TURNING UP IN MANHATTAN ARE PROBABLY THE WORK OF SCOTLAND'S INFAMOUS SERIAL-KILLER, "MUTANT X."
WHAT DO THEY MEAN, DESICCATED...?

YOU PICKED THE WRONG GIRL TO MESS WITH TONIGHT, YOU ZOMBIE-LOOKIN' MOTHERLOVER...
THUMP
...OR SHOULD I CALL YOU MUTANT X?
SHWUK
SHLUP
CALL ME WHATEVER YE WANT, YE FAT BAMPOT. I DINNAE CARE.
AN' WHAT'RE YUIR STUMPS SUPPOSED TAE DO?
BOOM
BOOM

HEH.
NAE QUITE THE RESULT YUIR EXPECTIN'?
AN' NOW FOR ME NEXT TRICK...
YEEEAARRGHH!


AW, NO. I'M TOO TIRED FOR THIS.

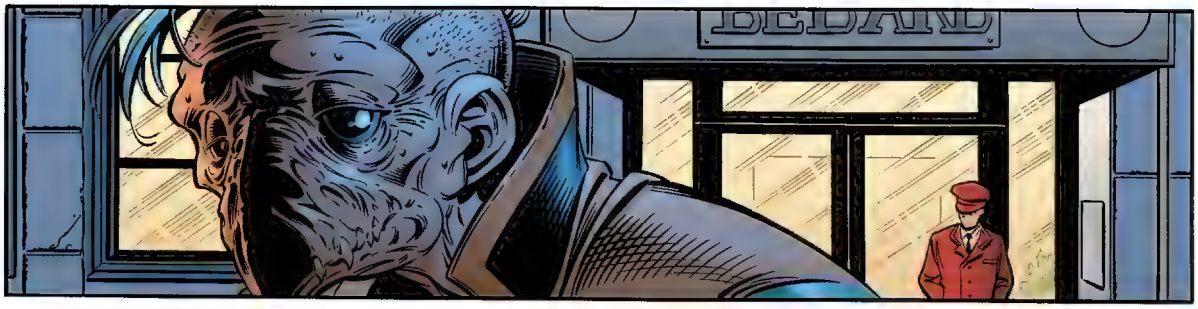
LOOK, AH...NO AUTOGRAPHS, OKAY? S'LATE AN' YOU SHOULDN' BE HANGIN' AROUND LIKE THIS ANYWAY.
ANGEL, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? IT IS THREE IN THE MORNING! WHO IS WATCHING THE KIDS?

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKIN' TO? I WILL SLAP THE SASS RIGHT OUTTA YOUR MOUTH IF YOU DON'T DIAL IT BACK!
BUT...I SPENT ALL DAY LOOKING FOR YOU! WE CHECKED THE XAVIER INSTITUTE, BUT IT IS GONE!
WHAT HAPPENED, ANGEL? I NEED TO KNOW IF THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT!
WHAT KIDS?

OUR KIDS!
EW--
YOU ACTUALLY THINK I'D EVER KNOCK BOOTS WITH YOU--?!

IS THERE A PROBLEM, MISS SALVATORE?
YEAH, A STALKER PROBLEM. CALL THE COPS ON 'IM, WOULD YOU?

CRAZY PIGEON-HEAD...
HULLO, ANGEL.
BLUNDERBUSS?! WHAT THE DEVIL YOU DOIN' IN HERE?
YE'D THINK A BIG STRONG SHELL LIKE THIS WOULD LAST A WHILE, BUT HE'S ALREADY WORN THIN.
I GUESS YE JUS' NEVER KNOW WHICH ONES'LL GIVE OUT ON YE.
WHY YOU TALKIN' LIKE THAT, BLUNDERBUSS?
I NEED YOU, ANGEL.
HEY, YOU KNOW WE'RE JUST FRIENDS, RIGHT?
AYE, HE KNEW IT WELL. LOVED YOU LIKE A SISTER, SO HE DID.
BUT BLOONDERBUSS IS AUL GONE NOW. AN' IN A MINUTE, SO WILL YEH BE.



LOOKS LIKE THAT DIDN'T GO SO WELL, BEAK. YOU OKAY?
WE HAVE TO FIX IT...
HUH?

WE HAVE TO FIX THE WORLD! I HAVE TO GET MY KIDS BACK!
THEY DO NOT EXIST ANYMORE! I DON'T CARE IF YOU ALL LOVE IT HERE, I WANT MY FAMILY BACK!

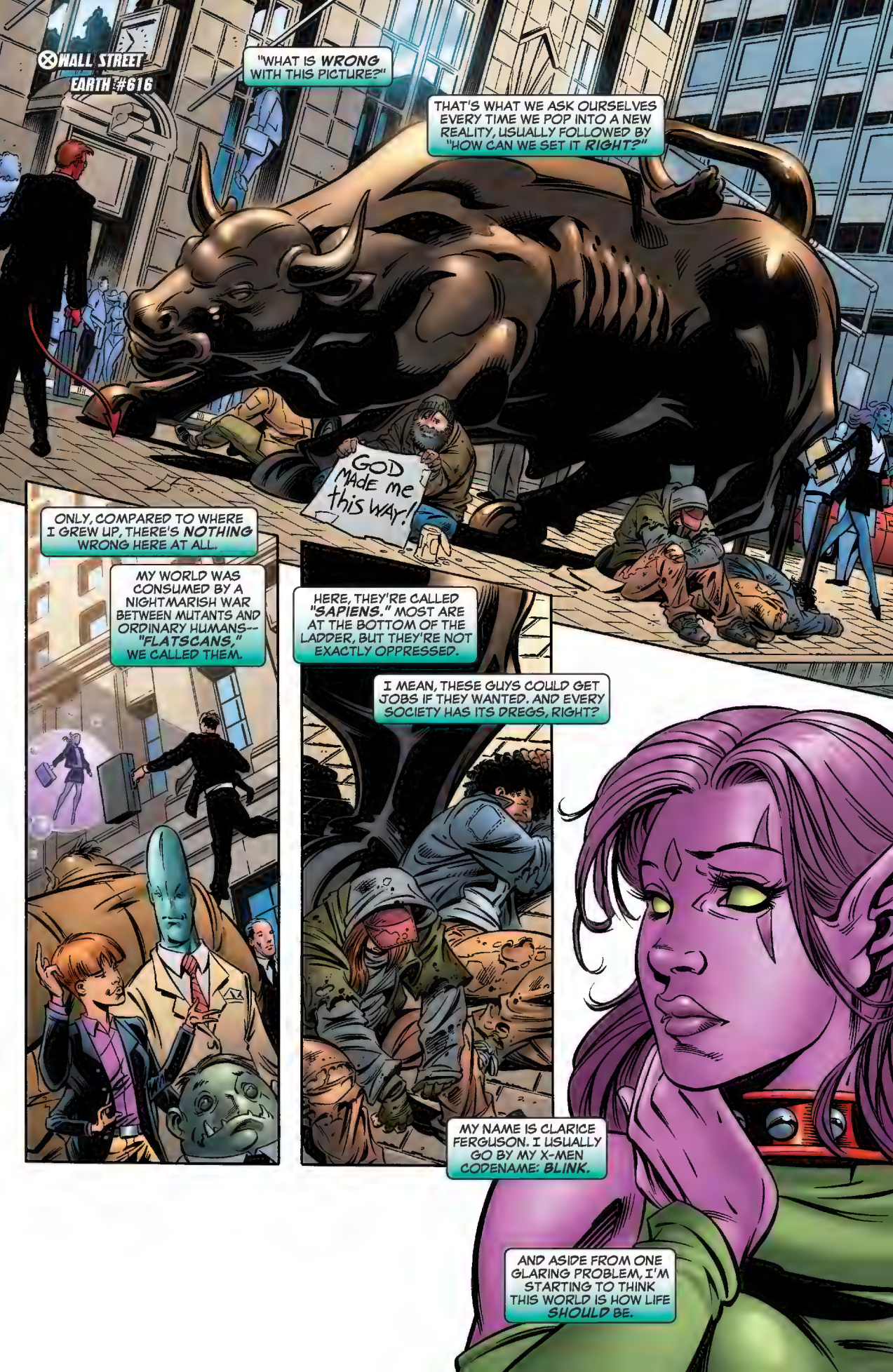
RECKON I'D WANT THE SAME IF I WAS IN YOUR SHOES, BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE OUR CALL TO MAKE.

I THINK WHAT HE MEANS, BARNELL, IS THAT IF THIS CHANGE IN YOUR WORLD WAS SOMEHOW MEANT TO BE, WE MAY NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO CHANGE IT BACK.
RIGHT OR WRONG, MIMIC, I AM GOING TO FIND A WAY.

WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE...?

I THOUGHT BECOMIN' A SUPER-MODEL WOULD BE THE HIGHLIGHT O' MY DAY, BUT YEH PEOPLE...
...OCH, THERE'S SOMETHIN' DEAD SPECIAL ABOUT YE, ISN'T THERE? I CAN TASTE IT FROM HERE.
AND I'LL BE HAVIN' YUIR SECRET, SO I SHALL...

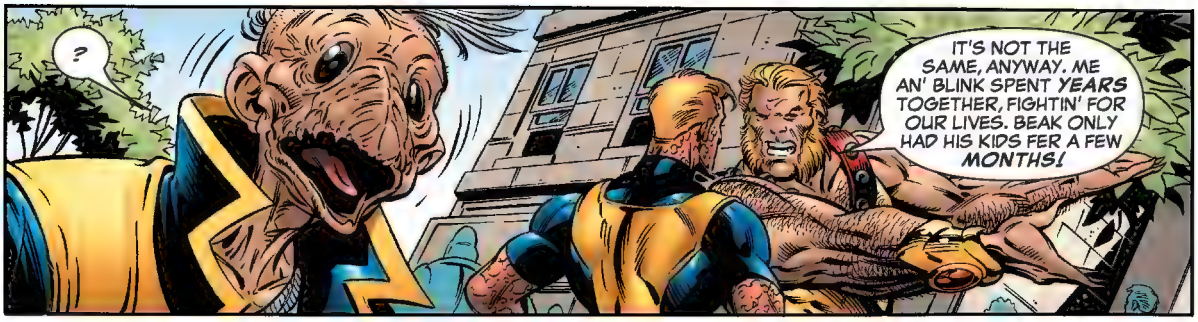
EXILES #70

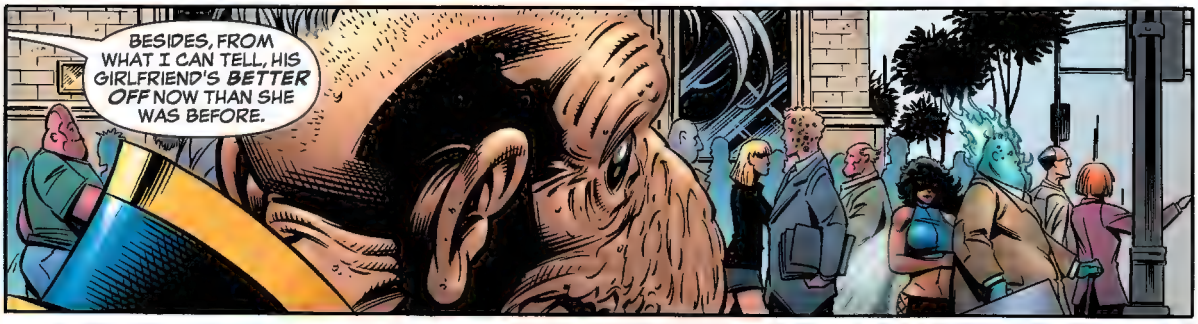

WALL STREET
EARTH #616
"WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?"
THAT'S WHAT WE ASK OURSELVES EVERY TIME WE POP INTO A NEW REALITY, USUALLY FOLLOWED BY "HOW CAN WE SET IT RIGHT?"
GOD made me this way!
ONLY, COMPARED TO WHERE I GREW UP, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG HERE AT ALL.
MY WORLD WAS CONSUMED BY A NIGHTMARISH WAR BETWEEN MUTANTS AND ORDINARY HUMANS--"FLATSCANS," WE CALLED THEM.
HERE, THEY'RE CALLED "SAPIENS." MOST ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LADDER, BUT THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY OPPRESSED.
I MEAN, THESE GUYS COULD GET JOBS IF THEY WANTED. AND EVERY SOCIETY HAS ITS DREGS, RIGHT?
MY NAME IS CLARICE FERGUSON. I USUALLY GO BY MY X-MEN CODENAME: BLINK.
AND ASIDE FROM ONE GLARING PROBLEM, I'M STARTING TO THINK THIS WORLD IS HOW LIFE SHOULD BE.

THE PROBLEM IS BEAK.
THIS IS HIS WORLD--SORT OF. HE JOINED OUR TEAM A FEW MONTHS AGO TO HELP US FIX ALTERNATE REALITIES GONE WRONG.
WHILE WE WERE AWAY, EVERYTHING CHANGED HERE. IT WENT FROM A WORLD WHERE MUTANTS WERE A MISUNDERSTOOD MINORITY TO ONE WHERE MUTATION IS THE NORM.
WE DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, OR IF IT CAN BE CHANGED BACK...BUT UNDOING THIS UTOPIA MIGHT BE THE GREATEST CRIME OF ALL.
WORLD TOUR
HOUSE OF M
Part II of III

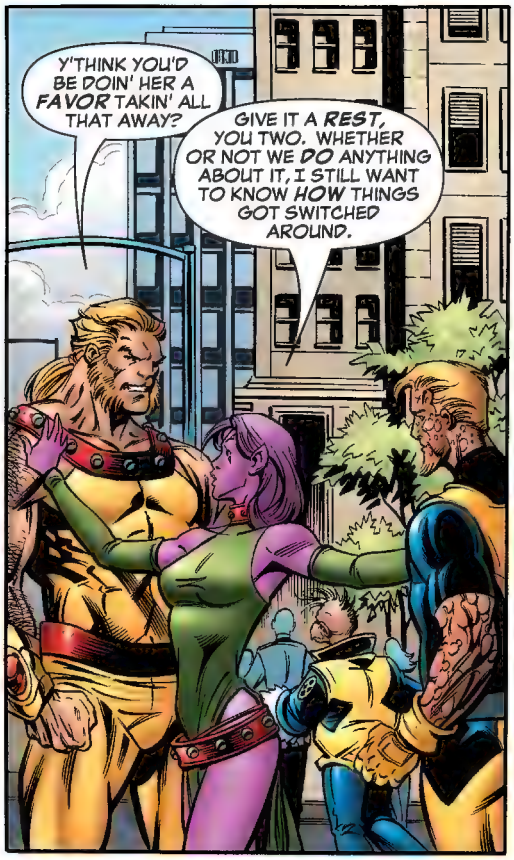
ERIK. MAGNUS. MAGNETO. IN THE REALITY I COME FROM, HE LEADS THE X-MEN. IN OTHERS, HE'S THE MOST EVIL MUTANT ON EARTH.
STOCK EXCHANGE
N.Y.S.E.
ON THIS VERSION OF EARTH, HE'S A HERO OF THE HIGHEST ORDER. I'VE SPENT ALL MORNING READING UP ON HIM.
KING MAGNUS COMMANDS GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD.
THE PROSPERITY HE BRINGS IS UNDENIABLE. THE EVILS HIS ARMIES AVERT ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO COUNT.
EVEN THE SENTINEL ROBOTS, THE SCOURGE OF MUTANTKIND IN EVERY OTHER REALITY, SERVE ONLY TO PROTECT.

NONE OF THIS HOLDS ANY CONSOLATION FOR BEAK.
DON'T WORRY, BARNELL, WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED AND WE'LL CHANGE IT ALL BACK. IF ANYONE CAN, IT'S US.
YER NOT THINKIN' THIS THROUGH, MIMIC...
...WE FIX REALITIES THAT ARE DOOMED. THIS WORLD'S DOIN' JUST FINE WITHOUT OUR HELP.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SABRETOOTH? BEAK'S KIDS DON'T EVEN EXIST HERE!
YEAH, I GOT THAT. BUT WHAT IF WE ERASE A BILLION MORE KIDS WHEN WE CHANGE THINGS BACK?
WOULD THAT BE FAIR?
BEAK'S YOUNG. HE CAN START OVER. AN' IN THIS WORLD, HE ACTUALLY STANDS A CHANCE OF HOOKIN' UP AGAIN!
Y'THINK ANYONE IN THIS CROWD WILL JUDGE HIM FOR HIS LOOKS? HECK, NOBODY'S GIVEN YOUR UGLY MUG A SECOND GLANCE SINCE WE GOT HERE!
WELL, THAT'S MIGHTY NOBLE OF YOU, WRITING OFF BEAK'S CHILDREN LIKE THAT.
BUT IF CLARICE WAS SUDDENLY ERASED FROM EXISTENCE, I KNOW YOU'D KILL HALF THE PLANET TO GET HER BACK!
LONG AS I GET TO START WITH YOU.

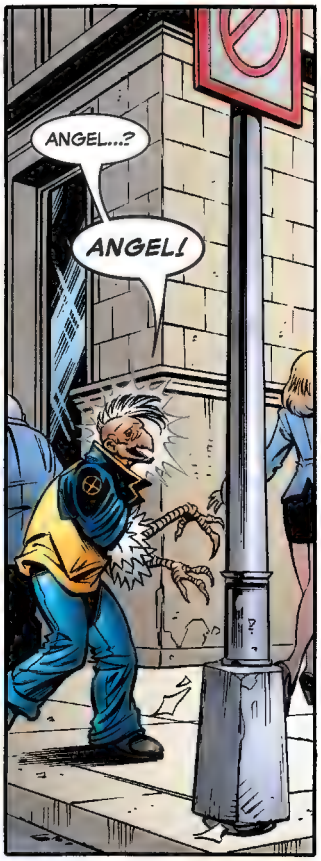

?
IT'S NOT THE SAME, ANYWAY. ME AN' BLINK SPENT YEARS TOGETHER, FIGHTIN' FOR OUR LIVES. BEAK ONLY HAD HIS KIDS FER A FEW MONTHS!


BESIDES, FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, HIS GIRLFRIEND'S BETTER OFF NOW THAN SHE WAS BEFORE.

"SHE USETA LIVE IN A SHACK WITH HIM, RIGHT? NOW SHE'S A FLIPPIN' UNDERWEAR MODEL WITH HER OWN UPTOWN APARTMENT."


Y'THINK YOU'D BE DOIN' HER A FAVOR TAKIN' ALL THAT AWAY?
GIVE IT A REST, YOU TWO. WHETHER OR NOT WE DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, I STILL WANT TO KNOW HOW THINGS GOT SWITCHED AROUND.

...'SCUSE ME... PARDON...


ANGEL...?
ANGEL!

BUCKAWWW!
A-ANGEL?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SHUT UP AN' QUIT YUIR STRUGGLIN', LEST I DROP YE!
UM, GUYS...? AND I'M SERIOUSLY ASKING...
SHARPIE

...WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?
IZZAT BEAK'S GAL CARRYIN' HIM...?
I CAN CATCH UP!
YE DO THAT AN' YUIR LIKELY TAE GET YUIR FRIEND KILLED.
SAY WHAT?
THE BIRD-BOY'S IN DANGER, TAE BE SURE, BUT YE CAN ONLY HELP HIM IF YE KNOW WHAT YUIR UP AGAINST.
WHO ARE YOU?
I'LL TELL YE, BUT NOT HERE. NOT WITH KING MAGNUS'S TIN SOLDIERS SO CLOSE.
GZZK
THERE'S A PLACE NEARBY WHERE WE CAN TALK...

"FIRST, I'M SORRY TAE INFORM YE THAT THE GIRL WHO TOOK YUIR FRIEND IS ALREADY BEYOND SAVIN'..."
...THE POOR CHILD IS NOW JUST A VEHICLE FOR A MUTANT I'VE CHASED ALL THE WAY FROM EDINBURGH.
HE HAS THE POWER TAE SNATCH BODIES...AN' TAE BEND REALITY ITSELF. IT GIVES HIM A DISTINCT AN' POWERFUL ENERGY SIGNATURE.
I USE THIS TAE TRACK HIM, AN' I NOTICED THAT YE PEOPLE GIVE OFF A SIM'LAR READING.
MORE TAE THE POINT, YUIR WEE BRACELET DOES. AN' WHEN I HEARD YE SAY SOMETHIN' ABOUT "SAVIN' REALITIES THAT ARE DOOMED," WELL...
...I'M PRAYIN' YE CAN HELP ME STOP HIM.
STOP WHO?
MY SON.
MY NAME'S MOIRA MacTAGGERT. DOES THAT MEAN ANYTHING TAE YE?
SHOULD IT?
WELL, YE REALLY ARE STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND, AREN'T YE?

"IF YE EVER WATCHED THE NEWS, YE'D RECOGNIZE MY NAME AN' KNOW I'M NOT THE BAG-LADY I APPEAR TAE BE.
"I'M A SCIENTIST. I OWNED A RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON MUIR ISLE, IN SCOTLAND.
"MY FIELD IS GENETICS. I WAS THE FIRST TAE PROPERLY IDENTIFY THE EMERGIN' MUTANT PHENOMENON TWENTY YEARS AGO.
"THAT WON ME THE NOBEL PRIZE. THE GRANT MONEY POURED IN, BUT NONE OF IT COULD SAVE MY SON KEVIN FROM HIS OWN MUTATION...
"...HE WITHERED BEFORE MY EYES, AND HUNGERED TAE FEED ON OTHERS. I LOCKED HIM AWAY AND SEARCHED FOR A WAY TAE CURE HIM BY ISOLATIN' AND NEUTRALIZIN' THE MUTANT GENE ITSELF.
"BUT SEEKING A MEANS TO UNDO MUTATION IS A SHUIR WAY TAE MAKE AN ENEMY O' KING MAGNUS.
"I'VE BEEN THE MOST WANTED SAPIEN IN THE WORLD EVER SINCE..."

"...AN' MY SON ESCAPED TAE BECOME THE WORLD'S MOST WANTED MUTANT."
SO DID YOU FINALLY REMEMBER ME? OR MAYBE WHAT I SAID ABOUT THE KIDS GOT YOU THINKING...
NO, LAD, SHE DINNAE REMEMBER YE IN THE LEAST. AN' WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT HERE TAE DISCUSS HAVIN' CHILDREN.
ANGEL, WHY ARE YOU TALKING SO FUNNY?
AND WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR EYES? ARE YOU ON DRUGS?
ANGEL IS NAE HERE RIGHT NOW. IN FACT, I'M ABOUT THE FURTHEST THING FROM AN ANGEL YE'LL EVER MEET.
NOW, TELL ME ALL ABOUT YUIR FRIENDS. I SENSE SOMETHIN' IN THEM I'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE, SOMETHIN'... KINDRED...
...AN' JUST SO YE KNOW WHY YE'LL HOLD BACK NOTHING FROM ME, TAKE A GANDER AT THE HEADLINE. IT'S ABOUT YUIRS TRULY.

THE SECOND ONE DOWN. OBVIOUSLY, I'M NOT KING MAGNUS, NOR THAT ARMORED BAMPOT, VON DOOM.
W-WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU SAYING, ANGEL?
OCH, YUIR DENSE!
MUTANT X" KILLER STRIKES AGAI
I'M NOT YUIR BLEEDIN' GIRLFRIEND. I'M MUTANT X!
SO YE'D BEST START TELLIN' ME ABOUT YUIR COMPANIONS NOW--
--ELSE I'LL CLIMB INSIDE YUIR BODY AN' RUMMAGE THROUGH YUIR MEM'RIES!
WHU--?
AHHH!
IT'D CERTAINLY BE QUICKER THAN PLAYIN' TWENTY QUESTIONS, BUT I'D BURN YE OUT JUST LIKE POOR AULD BLOONDERBUSS--
--AN' I'M IN NO HURRY TO GIVE UP THIS SHELL. SHE'S STAYIN' FRESH MUCH LONGER THAN I EVER EXPECTED!

SO YOUR KID IS A MUTANT SERIAL KILLER, AN' HE'S GOT OUR FRIEND, AN' WE'RE WASTIN' TIME HERE TALKIN'?!
MILK
YE CANNAE JUST ATTACK HIM. THERE ARE THINGS YE NEED TAE KNOW FIRST, AN' THINGS I NEED TAE KNOW ABOUT YE!
MISTER CREED, USE THE TALLUS TO CONTACT HEATHER.
ASK HER TO CHECK THE CRYSTAL PALACE DATABASE FOR ANYTHING ON A "MOIRA MACTAGGERT" AND SEE IF HER STORY RINGS TRUE.
WHAT'S A TALLUS?
HEATHER...
ALREADY ON IT, SABRETOOTH. I PULLED THAT WOMAN'S FILE THE MINUTE SHE TOLD YOU HER NAME.
OKAY, IF THIS WERE THE USUAL EARTH SIX-ONE-SIX, MOIRA MACTAGGERT THERE WOULD BE...
...WELL, SHE'D BE DECEASED RIGHT NOW-- BUT DON'T TELL HER THAT.
THE PART ABOUT HER BEING A GENETICIST ON MUIR ISLE CHECKS OUT.
AS FOR HER SON, WHAT I'M FINDING SCARES THE HELL OUT OF ME...

EXCUSE ME, BUT THIS PLACE IS REALLY ONLY FOR DISADVANTAGED SAPIENS.
YOUR PRESENCE IS...DISTURBING THOSE WHO COME SEEKING SUSTENANCE. I REGRET I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE.
I DON'T THINK YOU REGRET IT ONE BIT--
NO, NO, OF COURSE WE'LL LEAVE, FATHER. 'TIS MY FAULT, ANYWAY. I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER.
THANK YOU, MY CHILD. IT PAINS ME TO BE SO INHOSPITABLE...
SKRK
WHAT THE H--
PLEASE, SON.
WHAT IS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. IT APPEARS TO BE A--
SPLT
=URK=

KLATCH

ZZZK

...URNHH...

SAINTS PRESERVE US...

TARGET VERIFIED

INITIATE CAPTURE.

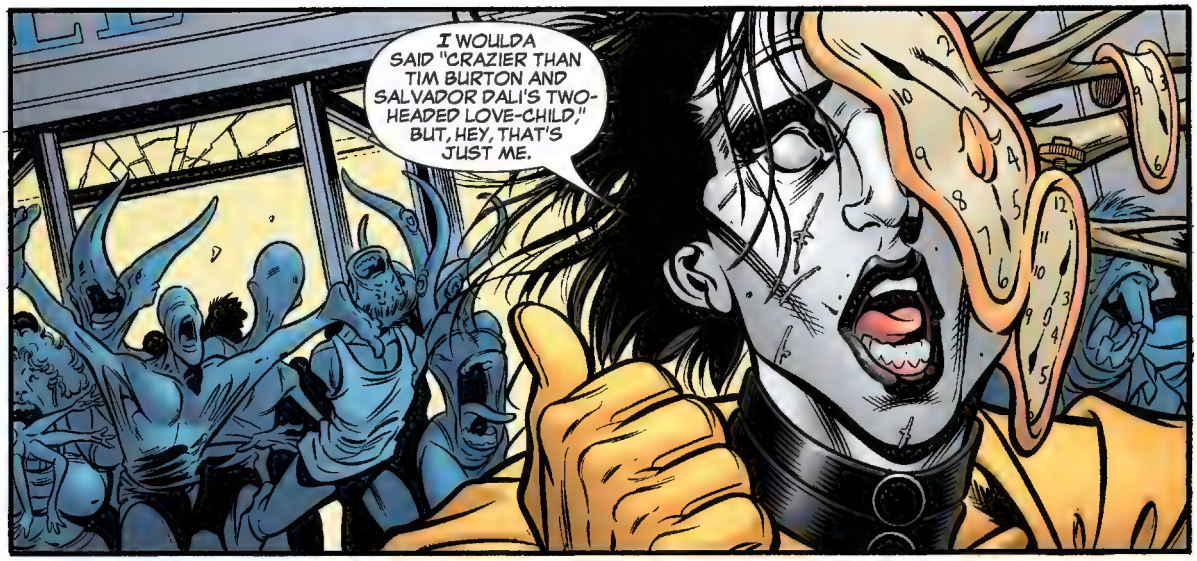
HELP!
ANOMALY! MUTANT RESISTANCE.
TZOT
REQUESTING BACKUP.
GET OUT, PEOPLE!
GYAHH!
THRUNCH
EXCESS SAPIENS OBSCURING TARGET.

OBSTRUCTION REMOVED.
EEEYAAHH--
ZARK
AND JUST LIKE THAT, ALL MY ROMANTIC NOTIONS ABOUT THIS BEING A UTOPIA DIE SCREAMING.
MUTANT COUNTERMEASURES ENABLED.
ZARK
THESE THINGS HAVE NO REGARD FOR LIFE, AND NO LIFE OF THEIR OWN...
...SO I WON'T HAVE TO PULL MY PUNCHES.

CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I WAS *HAPPY*. IT'S BEEN ONE DISASTER AFTER ANOTHER LATELY.
I'M SICK OF BEING LIED TO AND MANIPULATED, WATCHING MY FRIENDS LOSE THEIR *POWERS*, THEIR *FAMILIES*, THEIR *LIVES*--
--IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING WE CARE ABOUT GETS *TAKEN AWAY*, PIECE BY PIECE BY PIECE.
BLINK
BLINK
BLINK
BLINK
BLINK
MISTER CREED'S LIKE A *FATHER* TO ME. WHY DOES HE HAVE TO HATE THE MAN I *LOVE*?
AND WHY DID CAL'S BEAUTIFUL *FACE* HAVE TO TURN INTO GRISTLE AND MEAT?

I CAN LEARN TO LOOK PAST IT AND SEE HIS INNER BEAUTY, BUT COME ON! HAVEN'T WE BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH?
...SYSTEMS ERROR...SYSTEMS ERROR...
MAGNETO, A GOOD GUY? FINE. MUTANTS, THE MAJORITY? CHECK.
BUT SENTINELS CRASHING IN THROUGH THE FLOOR INSTEAD OF THE CEILING...? THAT IS JUST WRONG!
MORPH, IF YOU DON'T LEND A HAND, I SWEAR I'LL--
NEW TARGET ACQUIRED.
BLINK
BLINK
GET OUT YOUR TRACKER DEVICE, MacTAGGERT. WE'RE GOING TO GO SAVE MY FRIEND NOW.
ANYTHING ELSE WE NEED TO KNOW, YOU TELL US ON THE WAY.
TOO RIGHT, I WILL...

"KEVIN'S MUTANT ABILITY IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL EVER RECORDED. IT HAS TWO BASIC COMPONENTS...
"...FIRST, MY SON CAN TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE BASIC LAWS OF PHYSICS, WARPIN' REALITY TO SUIT HIS SICK WHIMS."
HIS DISPLAYS AREN'T USUALLY THIS... OSTENTATIOUS, THOUGH.
YEAH. THAT'S ONE WAY A' PUTTIN' IT.
MORPH

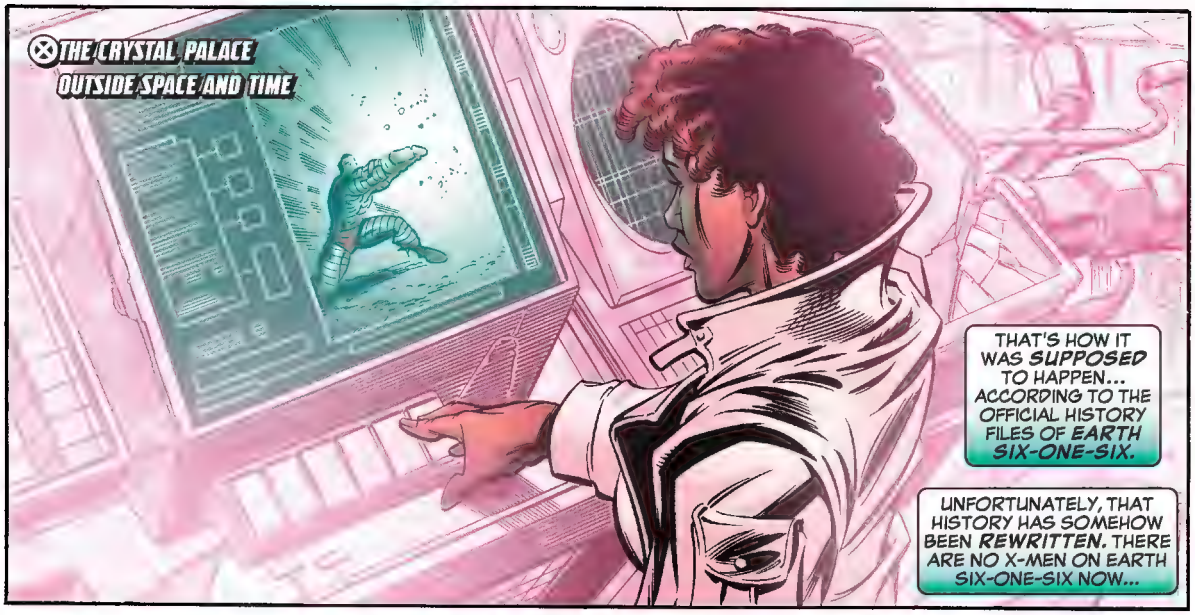

I WOULDA SAID "CRAZIER THAN TIM BURTON AND SALVADOR DALI'S TWO-HEADED LOVE-CHILD," BUT, HEY, THAT'S JUST ME.

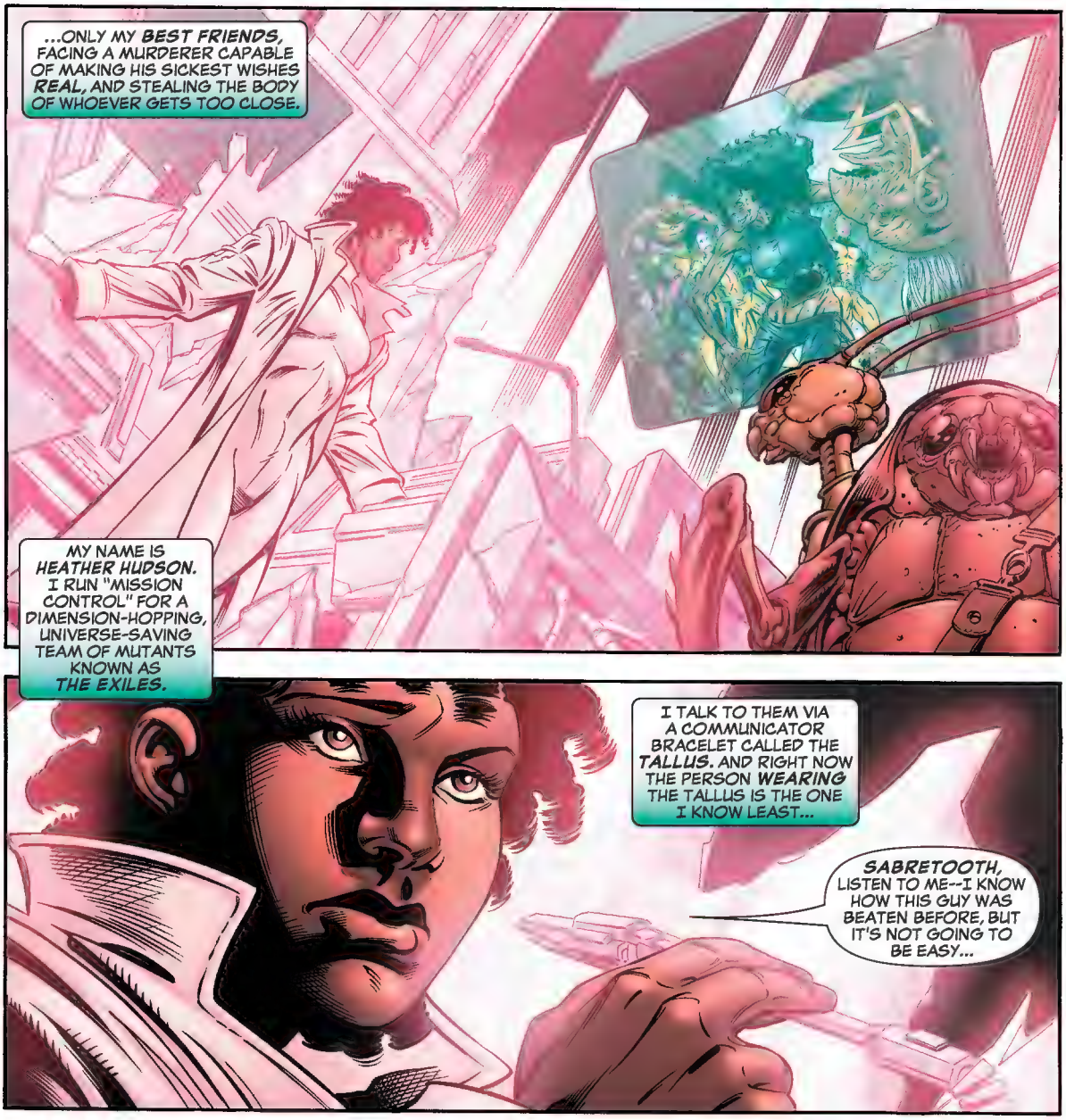
THE OTHER THING IS THAT KEVIN'S POWER CONSUMES HIS BODY, SO HE'S ALWAYS LOOKIN' FOR NEW BODIES TAE INHABIT.
WHEN HE "POSSESSES" SOMEONE, HE DISPLACES THEIR PSYCHE, EFFECTIVELY KILLIN' 'EM.
SO REMEMBER, HE CAN LOOK LIKE ANYONE, AND IF YE GET TOO CLOSE TAE--SAY TEN FEET OR SO--YOU RISK HIM TAKING YUIR BODY.
AN' AS FAR AS I KNOW, HIS ONLY WEAKNESS IS HE CANNAE STAND THE TOUCH OF METAL.

HULLO, MOTHER.

EXILES #71

THIS IS HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE HAPPENED...
...A FEW YEARS AGO, THE X-MEN OF REALITY SIX-ONE-SIX FOUGHT THE MUTANT SON OF THEIR FRIEND, MOIRA MacTAGGERT.
KEVIN MacTAGGERT POSSESSED HIS FATHER'S BODY, WITHERING IT TO A HUSK AS HE USED UP ITS LIFE-FORCE.
WHEN X-MAN PETER RASPUTIN THREW HIM INTO A WALL, KEVIN CRUMBLED LIKE A DRIED-OUT MUMMY.
WHAT WAS LEFT WAS HIS TRUE SELF--A GHOSTLY WRAITH CAPABLE OF RESHAPING THE FABRIC OF REALITY ITSELF.
BY THEN, HE WAS CALLING HIMSELF PROTEUS, AFTER THE SHAPE-CHANGING GOD OF GREEK MYTH. I GUESS THAT FIT, SINCE HE HAD GODLIKE POWER.
HE ALSO HAD ONE BIG VULNERABILITY-- METAL COULD DISRUPT THE DELICATE ENERGY MATRIX THAT HELD HIM TOGETHER.
TOO BAD FOR HIM HE PICKED A FIGHT WITH COLOSSUS, WHO CAN TRANSFORM INTO LIVING STEEL.
IF COLOSSUS HADN'T DESTROYED HIM, PROTEUS MIGHT HAVE BECOME THE MOST DANGEROUS MUTANT EVER.


THE CRYSTAL PALACE
OUTSIDE SPACE AND TIME
THAT'S HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN... ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL HISTORY FILES OF EARTH SIX-ONE-SIX.
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT HISTORY HAS SOMEHOW BEEN REWRITTEN. THERE ARE NO X-MEN ON EARTH SIX-ONE-SIX NOW...


...ONLY MY BEST FRIENDS, FACING A MURDERER CAPABLE OF MAKING HIS SICKEST WISHES REAL, AND STEALING THE BODY OF WHOEVER GETS TOO CLOSE.
MY NAME IS HEATHER HUDSON. I RUN "MISSION CONTROL" FOR A DIMENSION-HOPPING, UNIVERSE-SAVING TEAM OF MUTANTS KNOWN AS THE EXILES.
I TALK TO THEM VIA A COMMUNICATOR BRACELET CALLED THE TALLUS. AND RIGHT NOW THE PERSON WEARING THE TALLUS IS THE ONE I KNOW LEAST...
SABRETOOTH, LISTEN TO ME--I KNOW HOW THIS GUY WAS BEATEN BEFORE, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY...

EARTH #616
THE UPPER WEST SIDE
SO YUIR THE FAMOUS EXILES I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT!
BEAK SAYS YUIR ALWAYS TRAVELIN' TAE OTHER REALITIES, RESHAPIN' EACH NEW EARTH YE COME ACROSS!
SOUNDS BRILLIANT. WHERE DO I SIGN UP?
THE WOMAN DOING ALL THE TALKING IS NO WOMAN AT ALL. THE BODY ONCE BELONGED TO BEAK'S GIRLFRIEND, ANGEL. NOW IT'S JUST ANOTHER SHELL BEING USED UP BY PROTEUS.
WORLD TOUR
HOUSE OF M
Conclusion

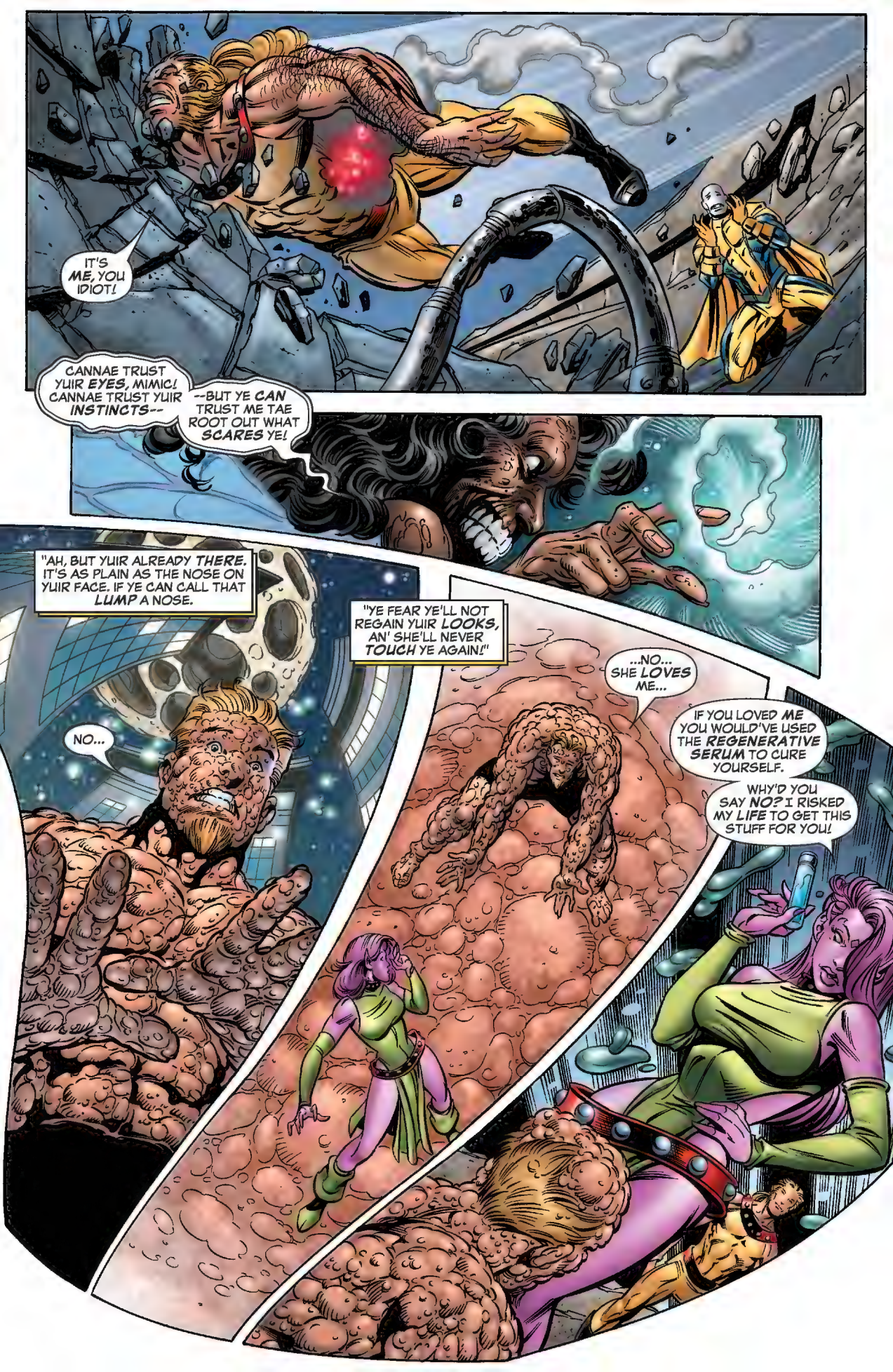
RUN...! FOR GOD'S SAKE...RUN...
HUSH NOW, BEAK. I'VE WANTED TAE MEET YUIR FRIENDS SINCE FIRST I SPIED 'EM LAST NIGHT. I SENSED SOMETHIN' SPECIAL ABOUT THEM.
AN' NOW, LO AN' BEHOLD, THEY SHOW UP HERE...WITH MY MUM, OF ALL PEOPLE!
NOW, CAN THAT BE COINCIDENCE, I ASK YE? SHUIRLY, WE'RE ALL MEANT TAE CROSS PATHS!
I'M JUST A VOICE IN THE HEAD OF WHOEVER WEARS THE TALLUS, SO NO ONE HEARS AS I TELL SABRETOOTH HOW TO BEAT PROTEUS.
HE'S NOT THRILLED THAT IT ALL HINGES ON MIMIC'S ABILITY TO REPRODUCE COLOSSUS'S POWER.
THE KID AIN'T UP TO IT. YOU KNOW HE SWORE HE'D NEVER KILL AGAIN.
HE HAS TO BE UP TO IT, SABRETOOTH, OR YOU'RE ALL DEAD!
WHO'S THAT YUIR WHISPERIN' TAE, MISTER SEEBRETOOTH?

FOR A MOMENT, I THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE VIEWSCREEN.
EEYAHHH!
GIVE US A LOOK AT YUIR BANGLE, BIG LAD.
SEEMS LIKE GOLD, BUT 'TIS NAE METAL AT ALL. S'MORE LIKE A HOOLE IN TIME, AN' I BET I KNOW WHO'S ON THE OTHER SIDE...

HULLO, IN THERE! BEAK TOLD ME ABOUT YE, TOO!
MIND IF I PAY A WEE VISIT?

REALITY INDICES AND SECONDARY DATABASES ARE BEING ACCESSED!
WHAT? HOW?!
PROTEUS IS SOMEHOW DOWNLOADING OUR LISTINGS OF UNIVERSE AFTER UNIVERSE, LIKE SOME TRANSDIMENSIONAL HACKER.
NEVER MIND--SHUT IT OFF!
POIT
POIT
SHUT IT ALL OFF!
KZAKK
SPAK
BAD ENOUGH HE'S A THREAT TO HIS OWN REALITY, BUT LETTING THAT MONSTER GLIMPSE OTHER WORLDS HE COULD MURDER HIS WAY ACROSS...?
POIT
OCH, HOW RUDE! SHE SLAMMED THE DOOR ON ME.
GAHH...
SHE SEEMED SURPRISED I COULD DO THAT. SO DID YEH, FOR THAT MATTER.
DIDN'T DEAR AUL' MUM TELL YE ANYTHIN' ABOUT ME?

"DID SHE TELL YE ABOUT MY KNACK FOR PULLIN' YUIR WORST FEARS FROM YUIR MIND?
"UP FOR A LITTLE NECROPHILIA, MORPH?
"HOW ABOUT GOIN' BACK TAE WORK FOR YUIR AUL' BOSS, SEEBRETOOTH? WHAT'S A FEW MILLION MORE DEATHS ON YUIR CONSCIENCE?
"AN' IT LOOKS LIKE YE HAD AN EVEN WORSE CHILDHOOD THAN I DID, BLINK..."
CLARICE! WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
=GAKH=
TZOT
GET AWAY FROM HER!

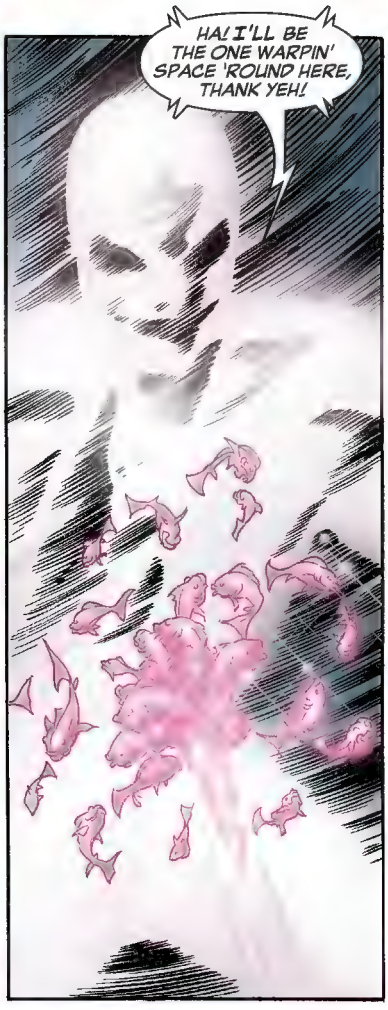

IT'S ME, YOU IDIOT!
CANNAE TRUST YUIR EYES, MIMIC! CANNAE TRUST YUIR INSTINCTS--
--BUT YE CAN TRUST ME TAE ROOT OUT WHAT SCARES YE!
"AH, BUT YUIR ALREADY THERE. IT'S AS PLAIN AS THE NOSE ON YUIR FACE. IF YE CAN CALL THAT LUMP A NOSE.
"YE FEAR YE'LL NOT REGAIN YUIR LOOKS, AN' SHE'LL NEVER TOUCH YE AGAIN!"
NO...
...NO... SHE LOVES ME...
IF YOU LOVED ME YOU WOULD'VE USED THE REGENERATIVE SERUM TO CURE YOURSELF.
WHY'D YOU SAY NO? I RISKED MY LIFE TO GET THIS STUFF FOR YOU!

CLARICE...?
YOU KNOW IN THE END THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN FOR HER.
HE'S A BEAST AN' A KILLER, BUT SHE STILL LOVES HIM IN A WAY SHE'LL NEVER LOVE YEH.
FACE IT-- YE CAN'T COMPETE!
CLARIIICE...!
MAY AS WELL JUST END IT ALL...
BLAM!

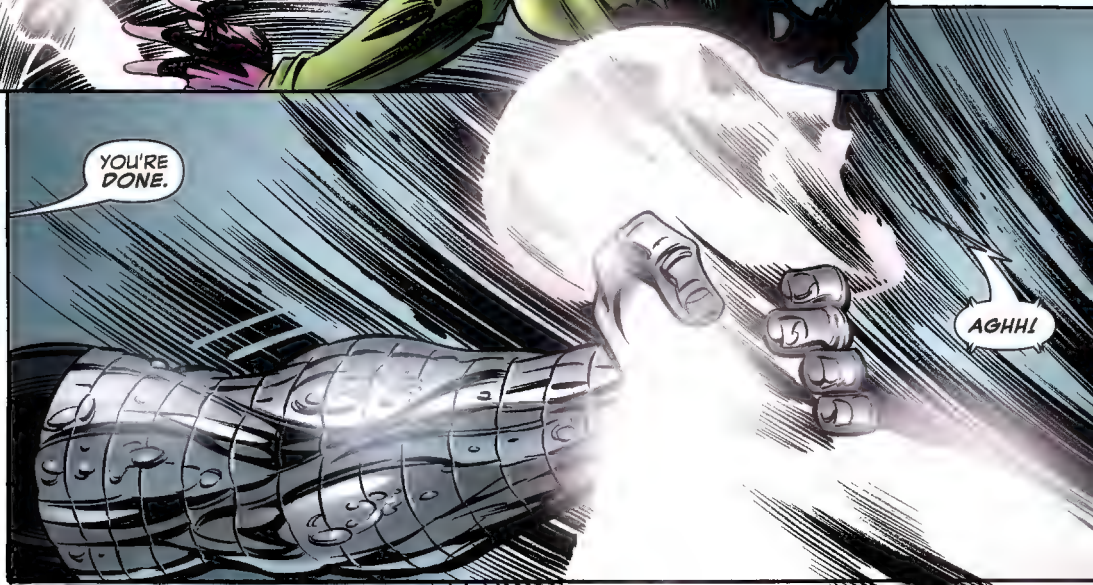
-UNH-
ARRHH!
HEAVEN FORGIVE ME FOR NOT DOING THAT YEARS AGO, AND SPARIN' THE WORLD YUIR KILLIN' SPREE.
...G-GET... GET IT OUT! BULLET...METAL... BURRRNS!
LOOK WHAT YE'VE FORCED ME TAE DO! I WASNAE DONE WITH HER YET!
ANGEL...?
...UNHH...
ANGEL!

GIVE US ONE LAST HUG, MOTHER.
IT'S ALL UP TO YOU, KID. HEATHER SAYS THAT THING'S AT ITS MOST VULNERABLE NOW-- AND METAL IS WHAT KILLS IT.
I NEED YOU, MUMMY.
NOT LIKE THIS...
BLAM!
NO!

YE NEVER WERE THE NURTURIN' TYPE!
YOU EVIL SACK OF...


HA! I'LL BE THE ONE WARPIN' SPACE 'ROUND HERE, THANK YEH!

THOUGH, I WONDER WHAT I COULD DO WITH YOUR POWERS...
I...WHY CAN'T I BLINK AWAY?
YE REALLY HAVE TAE ASK?


YOU'RE DONE.
AGHH!

LET GO! YUIR KILLIN' ME!
YOU BROUGHT IT ON YOURSELF.
SNIKT
NO! YUIR NO MURDERER! YE MADE A SACRED OATH! I SAW IT IN YUIR MIND!
CALVIN, LISTEN TAE THAT LITTLE VOICE IN YUIR HEART--THE ONE THAT SAYS--
"HA, HA--"

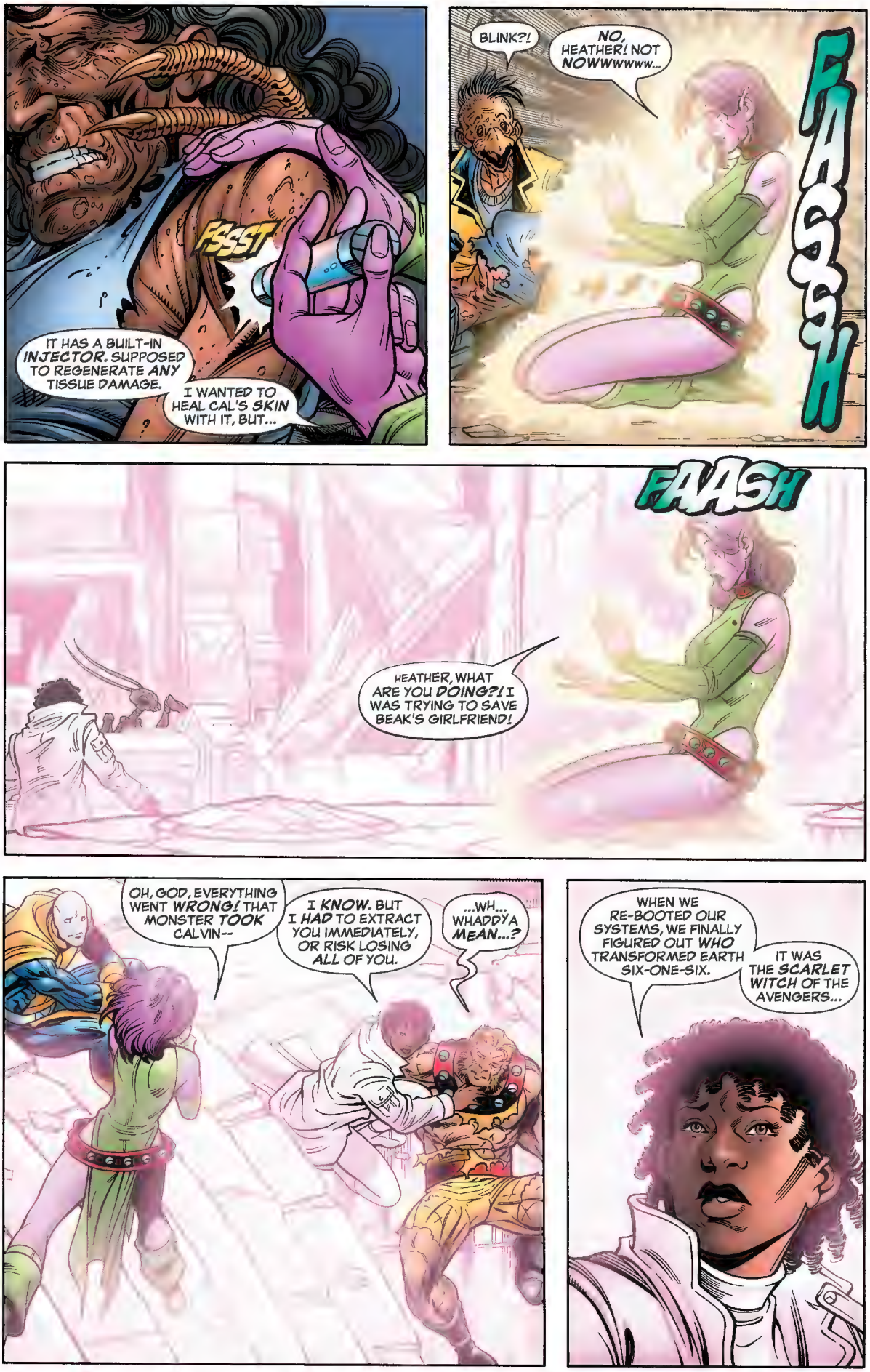
GYAHH!
"--MADE YE HESITATE!"
YE HAD YUIR SHOT AT ME...
CAL!
HULLO, CLARIIICE...

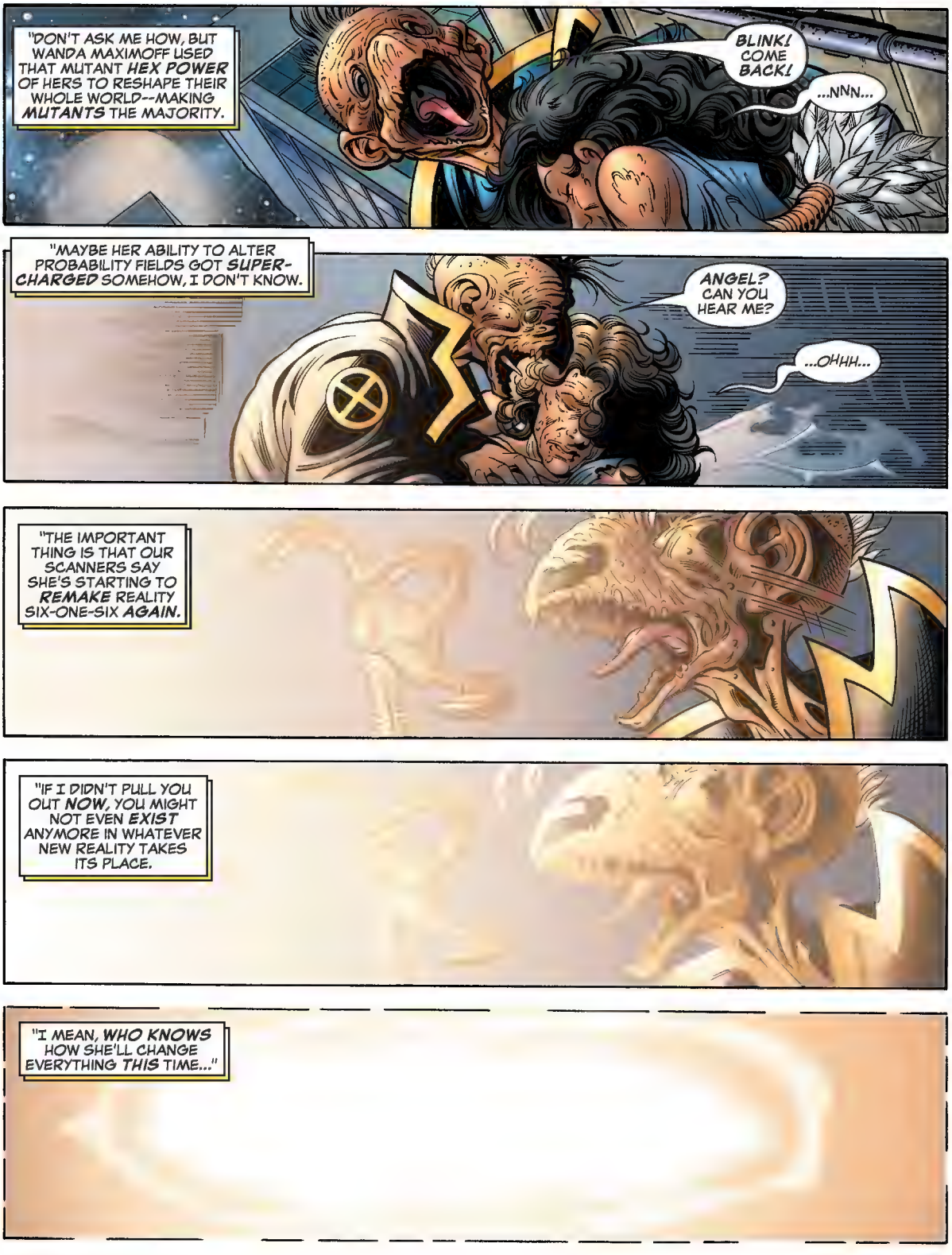
SNIKT
YUIR BOY-FRIEND DIED AN ANGRY MAN!
SNIKT
HE DINNAE LIKE YUIR DADDY ONE BIT!
HROOWL!
SHRAPF
RRAHRR!
YE BIG, DAFT ANIMAL.
YE'VE NO IDEA HOW OUTMATCHED YE ARE.
NOW, LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN, SHALL WE?

AT
WHRRR
NORTHSTAR
WHRRR
SPEED!
WHRRR
WHRRR
GET OUT OF THERE!
TZOT
OH, NO YE DON'T!
SPLUT
STOP IT!
BLINNK

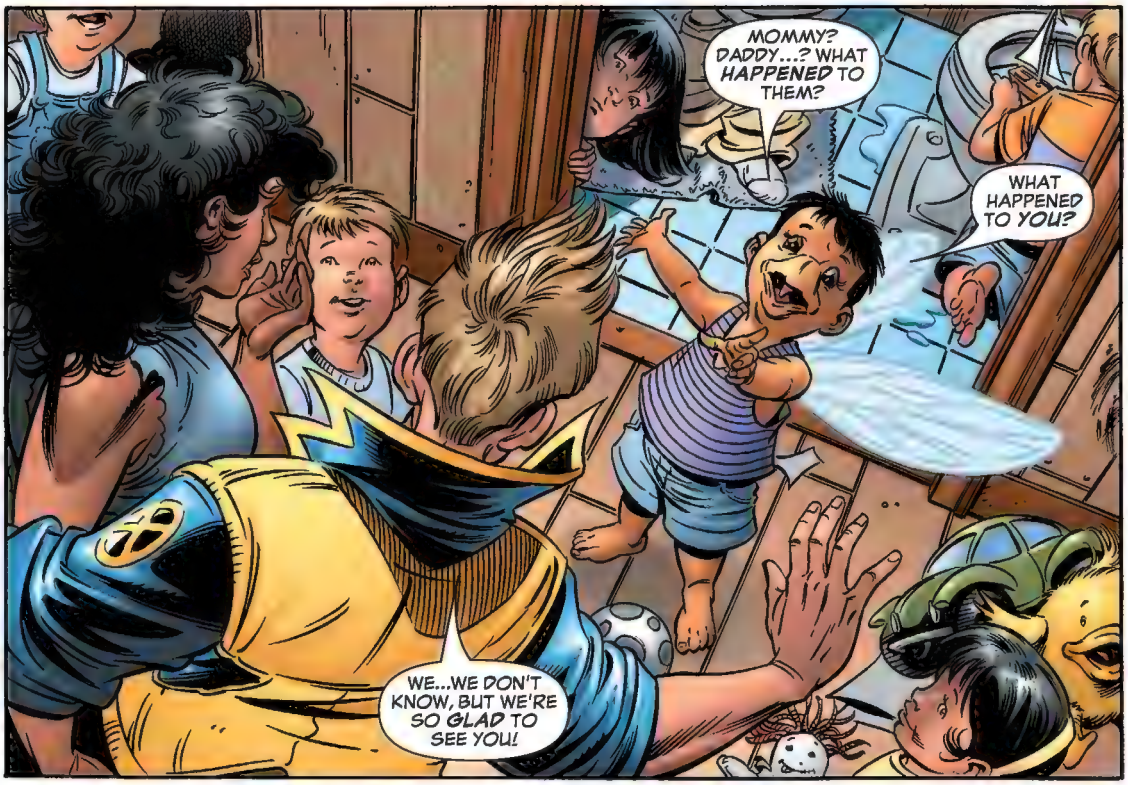
YE KNOW THOSE THINGS CANNAE TOUCH ME.
WHERE'D YE SEND THOSE TWO, ANYWAY?
NEVER MIND THEM.
GIVE ME BACK MY BOYFRIEND, OR I SWEAR YOU'LL DIE RIGHT HERE.
IS THAT A FACT? BECAUSE, Y'KNOW, THANKS TAE YE, I'VE HAD A WEE GLIMPSE OF THE WORLDS THAT LIE BEYOND THIS ONE.
READ ALL ABOUT 'EM IN YUIR FANCY GLASS PALACE, AN' I SEE 'EM IN YUIR SWEET CALVIN'S MEM'RIES.
AN' I'M WONDERIN' WHY I SHOULD LIMIT MY FUN TO THIS AUL' EARTH WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH MORE OUT THERE TAE SEE, AN' DO, AN' KILL...
VORRRRRP
CAL!!
POIT

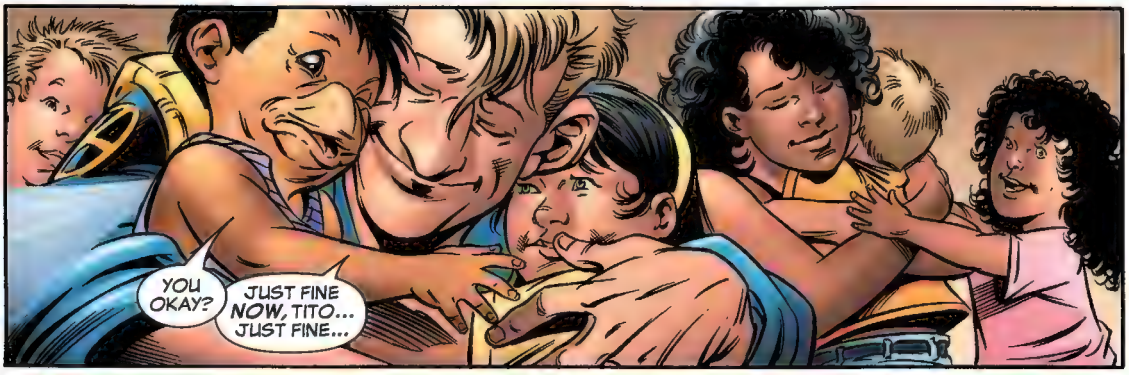
CRYSTAL PALACE
EXILES-CASUALTY-FIVE! TEMPORAL SCANNERS BACK ONLINE! FORECAST MODULES NOMINAL!
ABOUT TIME! WHAT'S HAPPENING ON SIX-ONE-SIX?
SUBJECT PROTEUS NO LONGER PRESENT IN THAT REALITY.
WHAT? LET ME SEE THAT...
ANOMALOUS, MASSIVE READINGS EMANATING FROM SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE--LANDMASS IDENT: GENOSHA.
CENTRAL PARK
I DON'T KNOW WHY BLINK ZAPPED US HERE, BUT IF SHE DOESN'T CATCH UP IN A SECOND, I'M GOING BACK TO HELP HER.
...UNHH...
UPPER WEST SIDE
SHE STILL ALIVE?
SHE IS DYING...!
>HKK-KK<
DON'T GIVE UP YET, BEAK. I STILL HAVE THIS.


FSSST
IT HAS A BUILT-IN INJECTOR. SUPPOSED TO REGENERATE ANY TISSUE DAMAGE.
I WANTED TO HEAL CAL'S SKIN WITH IT, BUT...
BLINK?!
NO, HEATHER! NOT NOWWWWWW...
FASSH
FAASH
HEATHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! I WAS TRYING TO SAVE BEAK'S GIRLFRIEND!
OH, GOD, EVERYTHING WENT WRONG! THAT MONSTER TOOK CALVIN--
I KNOW. BUT I HAD TO EXTRACT YOU IMMEDIATELY, OR RISK LOSING ALL OF YOU.
...WH... WHADDYA MEAN...?
WHEN WE RE-BOOTED OUR SYSTEMS, WE FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHO TRANSFORMED EARTH SIX-ONE-SIX.
IT WAS THE SCARLET WITCH OF THE AVENGERS...

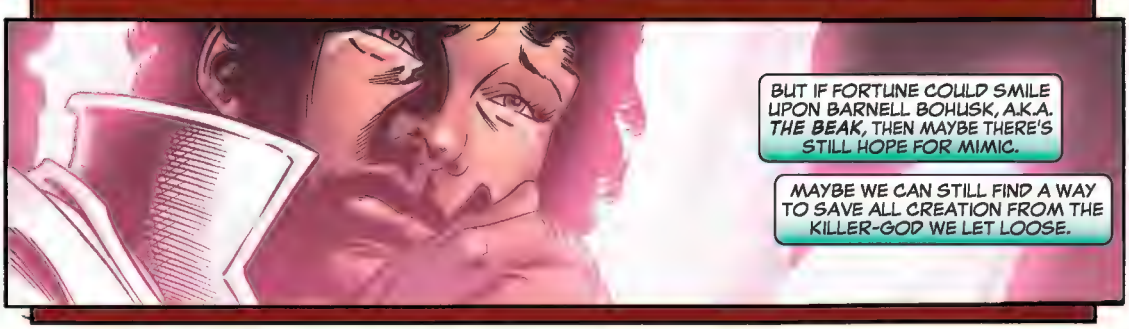

"DON'T ASK ME HOW, BUT WANDA MAXIMOFF USED THAT MUTANT HEX POWER OF HERS TO RESHAPE THEIR WHOLE WORLD--MAKING MUTANTS THE MAJORITY.
BLINK! COME BACK!
...NNN...
"MAYBE HER ABILITY TO ALTER PROBABILITY FIELDS GOT SUPER-CHARGED SOMEHOW, I DON'T KNOW.
ANGEL? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
...OHHH...
"THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT OUR SCANNERS SAY SHE'S STARTING TO REMAKE REALITY SIX-ONE-SIX AGAIN.
"IF I DIDN'T PULL YOU OUT NOW, YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN EXIST ANYMORE IN WHATEVER NEW REALITY TAKES ITS PLACE.
"I MEAN, WHO KNOWS HOW SHE'LL CHANGE EVERYTHING THIS TIME..."

EARTH #616
BEAK...?
YOU...YOU REMEMBER ME, ANGEL?
OF COURSE, I REMEMBER EVERYTHING.
THE KIDS!
TITO!
AXEL! KARA!
MOMMY! DADDY! HELP!


MOMMY? DADDY...? WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WE...WE DON'T KNOW, BUT WE'RE SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!


YOU OKAY?
JUST FINE NOW, TITO... JUST FINE...

THIS IS NOT HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE HAPPENED...
...MIMIC LOST TO US, AND A HORROR UNLEASHED UPON INFINITE EARTHS.


BUT IF FORTUNE COULD SMILE UPON BARNELL BOHUSK, A.K.A. THE BEAK, THEN MAYBE THERE'S STILL HOPE FOR MIMIC.
MAYBE WE CAN STILL FIND A WAY TO SAVE ALL CREATION FROM THE KILLER-GOD WE LET LOOSE.

MUTOPIA X #1

Previously in DISTRICT X...

Street cop ISMAEL ORTEGA is pulled from his normal police duties to work with X-Man LUCAS BISHOP. Their remit is to keep relations smooth between humans and the mutant population of District X, otherwise known as MUTANT TOWN. The pressures of the job have led to the break-up of Ismael's family. That was then...

HOUSE OF M

MUTOPIA

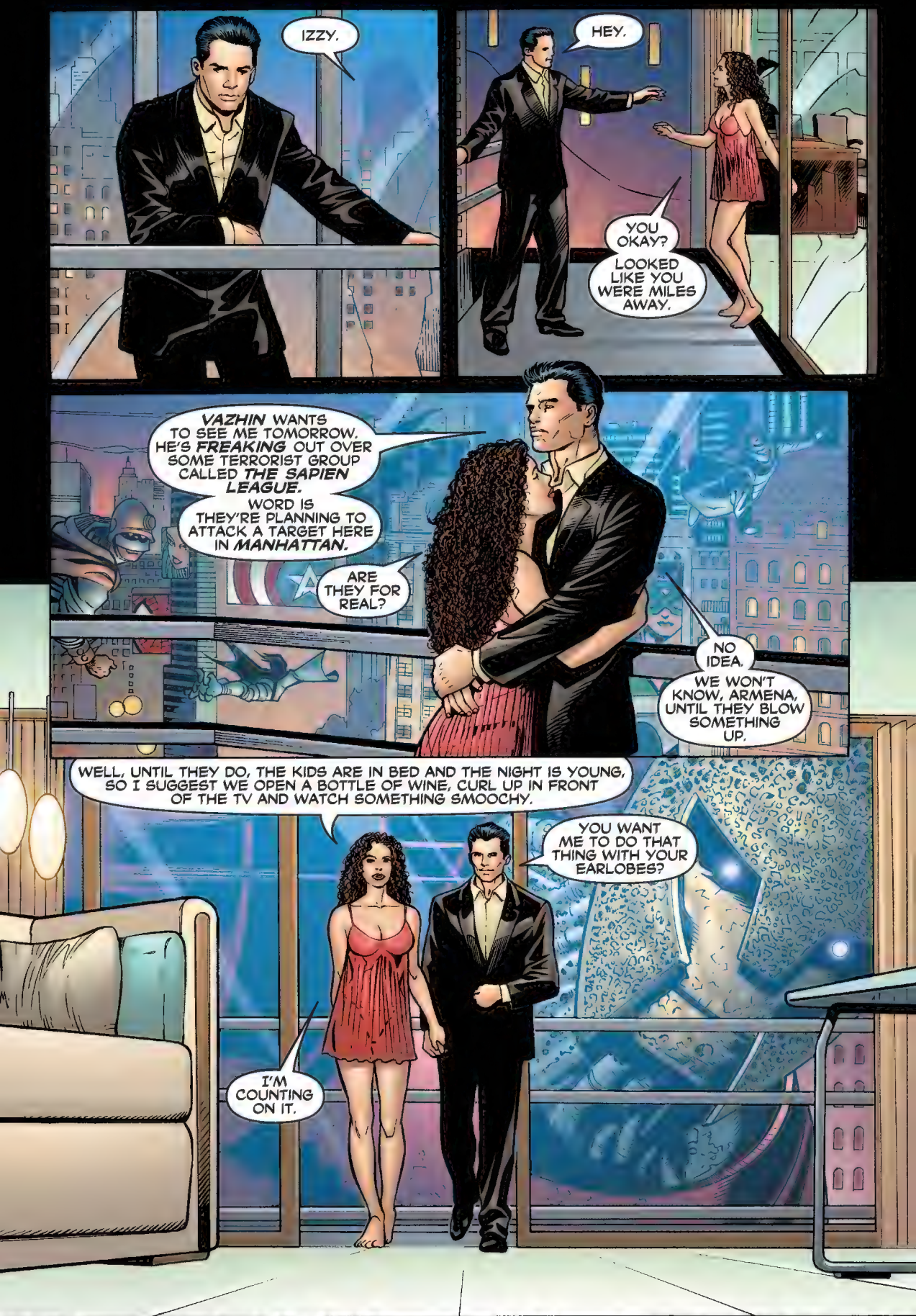
Previously in the AVENGERS...

It was the worst day in the Avengers' history. The SCARLET WITCH, WANDA MAXIMOFF, had a total nervous breakdown after losing control of her reality-altering powers. That was six months ago...

MAGNETO has lost the war against the humans, the war for which he sacrificed the well-being of his children. Now he is forced to watch his daughter Wanda suffer the loss of control over both her powers and her grip on reality. PROFESSOR XAVIER, unable to help Wanda, gathers the Avengers and the X-MEN to decide what to do with her. Not convinced that killing her is the only solution, the gathered heroes travel to GENOSHA to confront Wanda. Then the world burned to white. Welcome to the House of M. Nothing will ever be the same...

MY LIFE...
...IS A DISASTER.
I'M LIVING WITH A HOOKER.
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WOULD DO TO MY CAREER IF IT GOT OUT?
I SEE MY KIDS ONE DAY A WEEK AND THEY LOOK AT ME LIKE I KILLED SANTA CLAUS.
ARMENA HARDLY SPEAKS TO ME.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO PUT IT BACK TOGETHER IF SHE WON'T EVEN SPEAK TO ME?
IT'S LIKE EVERYTHING'S ON HOLD, WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO MAKE A MOVE.
AH, GREGOR. WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
HEH.
LOOK AT ME...
...I'M ASKING ADVICE FROM A TREE.

NO OFFENSE, GREGOR.
THUMP
SO SHOULD I OPEN THIS OR WHAT?
O-KAY.
OH MY--


IZZY.
HEY.
YOU OKAY?
LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE MILES AWAY.
VAZHIN WANTS TO SEE ME TOMORROW. HE'S FREAKING OUT OVER SOME TERRORIST GROUP CALLED THE SAPIEN LEAGUE.
WORD IS THEY'RE PLANNING TO ATTACK A TARGET HERE IN MANHATTAN.
ARE THEY FOR REAL?
NO IDEA.
WE WON'T KNOW, ARMENA, UNTIL THEY BLOW SOMETHING UP.
WELL, UNTIL THEY DO, THE KIDS ARE IN BED AND THE NIGHT IS YOUNG, SO I SUGGEST WE OPEN A BOTTLE OF WINE, CURL UP IN FRONT OF THE TV AND WATCH SOMETHING SMOOCHY.
YOU WANT ME TO DO THAT THING WITH YOUR EARLOBES?
I'M COUNTING ON IT.

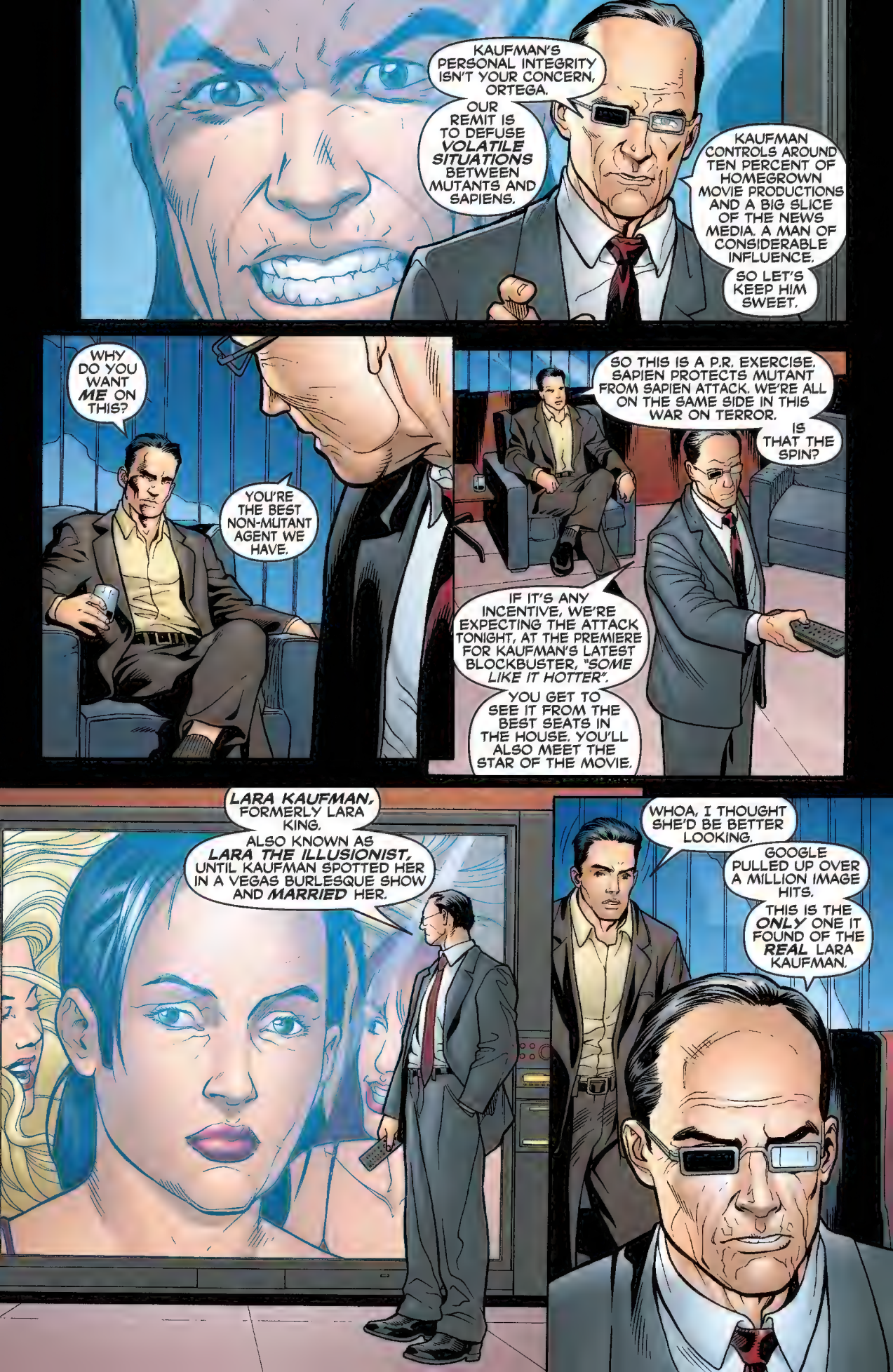
SAPIEN TOWN
"THE SECURITY IN THIS BUILDING IS TOTALLY INADEQUATE. THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN GUARANTEE JAZZ'S SAFETY."
JAZZ & JAZZ
KIND OF BLUE TOUR
OFFICER BISHOP, MY EMPLOYER FEELS THAT HIGH-LEVEL SECURITY IS QUITE INAPPROPRIATE. JAZZ IS A MAN OF THE PEOPLE, MUTANTS AND SAPIENS, EVERYONE LOVES THE GUY.
THE DISTRICT'S PSI DIVISION TELLS US DIFFERENT. SO, ZIPPERMOUTH, I SUGGEST YOU KEEP SCANNING THE CROWD IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR JOB.
YOU ASK ME, SOMEONE BLOWS THE NO-TALENT CREEP AWAY, THEY'D BE DOING US ALL A FAVOR.
NYPD
I AM PICKING UP SOME HOSTILITY. THERE'S A LOT OF INTENSE EMOTION OUT THERE, BOOSTED BY ALCOHOL AND NARCOTICS. IT'S HARD TO PINPOINT...
"...BUT I'M DEFINITELY PICKING UP ON SOME INDIVIDUAL WITH LETHAL INTENT."

SAPIEN TOWN! THE PRINCE REGENT OF HIP-HOP IS IN THE HOUSE!
GIVE IT UP FOR THE ORIGINAL AND THE BEST...
...JAZZ-E-JAZZ!
YO, YO YO, HOW YA FEELING? GONNA HIT YOU WIT' A RHYME I WROTE FOR ALL Y'ALL RIGHT HERE IN SAPIEN TOWN! CHART TOPPIN', NO STOPPIN'!
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
SAPIEN TOO!!!
♫THEY SAY I'M MUTANT 'CAUSE MY SKIN'S KIND OF BLUE♫ BUT INSIDE, WHERE IT COUNTS, I'M A SAPIEN TOO!
WHEN THEY SPIT ON YOU AND CUSS YOU AND CALL YOU THOSE NAMES: POWERLESS, RETROGRADE, ♫ HOMO INFERIOR, ♫ HEY, YOU KNOW I FEEL FOR YOU. CUT ME, I BLEED FOR YOU.
HEY, JAZZ!
♫ BUT INSIDE, I'M 'BOUT IT, I'M A SAPIEN TOO. ♫
♫I'M SHARING YOUR PAIN AND I'M HERE TO CONFESS IT. I PICK UP THE MIC, TURN OUT RHYMES AND EXPRESS IT.♫
♫YO! THEY CALL ME MUTANT, 'CAUSE MY SKIN'S KIND OF BLUE♫

GOT A MESSAGE FOR YOU, JAZZ.
OKAY, BACK OFF. LET THE MAN HAVE HIS SAY.
THAT'S HIM!
OH, WELL SPOTTED.
MOVE IT! SECURITY, GRAB THAT GUY NOW!
SO YOU WANT TO SPEAK FOR THE PEOPLE, HUH? TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR AUDIENCE, MAN.
YOU'RE PLAYING SAPIEN TOWN AND YOU GOT NINETY PERCENT MUTANTS OUT THERE!
IF YOU WANT TO SPEAK FOR SAPIENS--GIVE AWAY YOUR GOLD CHAINS AND YOUR HOUSE IN BEVERLY HILLS AND YOUR VILLA IN MIAMI.
COME AND LIVE HERE AND FIND OUT WHAT LIFE IN THE GHETTO IS REALLY LIKE.
OKAY, THAT'S IT.
GET HIM OFF A MY STAGE!
I DON'T THINK SO.

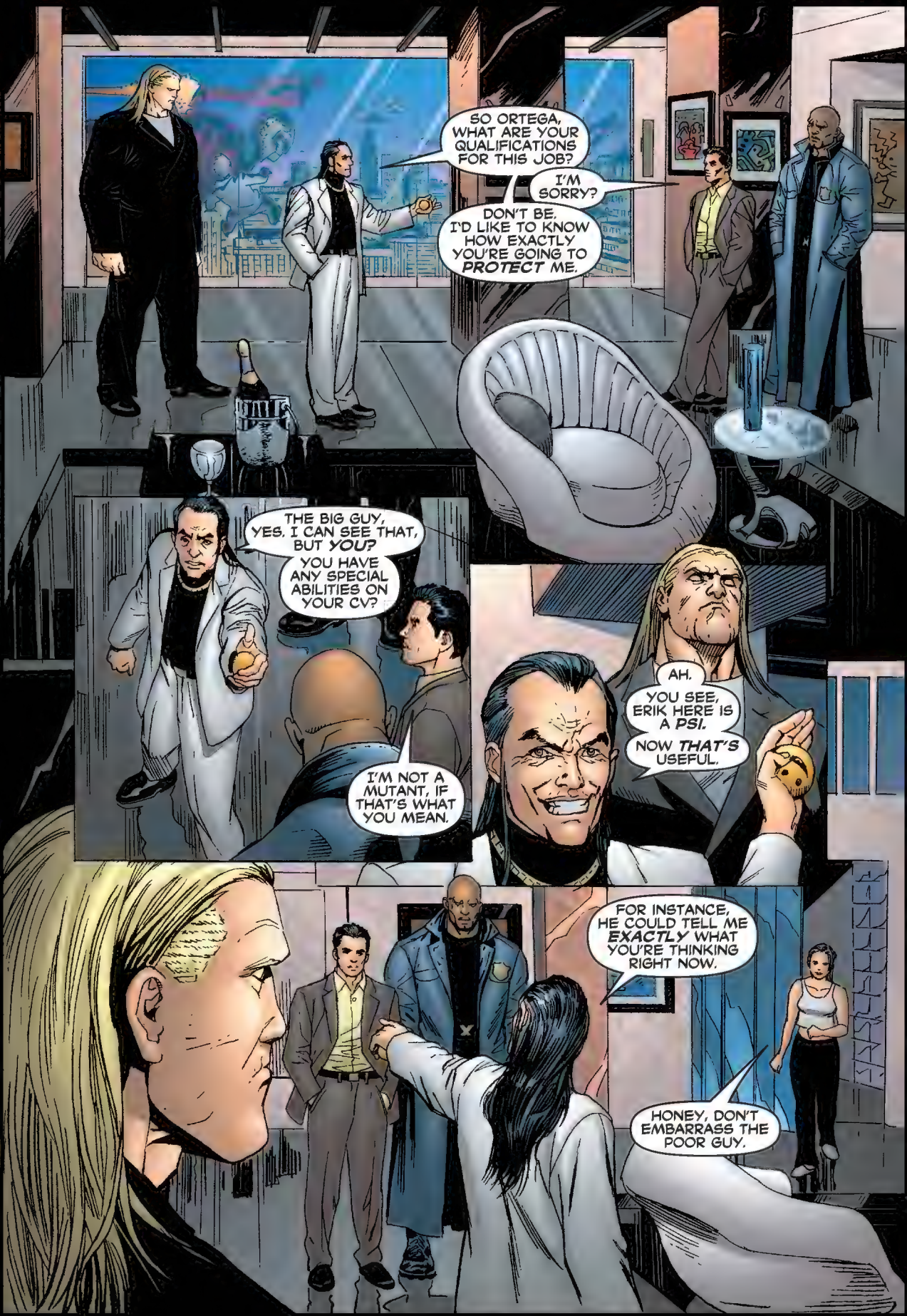
CAN YOU TAKE HIM OUT?
NO. IF I HIT HIM WITH AN ENERGY BLAST, IT COULD SET OFF THAT BOMB.
IT'S ALL YOU, JIMI.
YOU WANT ME TO THROW A SHIELD AROUND JAZZ?
FORGET ABOUT JAZZ! PUT A FIELD AROUND THE BOMBER! NOW!
SAY GOODBYE, JAZZ!
LONG LIVE THE SAPIEN LEAGUE!
WHUMP
YEW!

WELL, NOW WE KNOW THEY'RE SERIOUS.
IF NOT FOR THOSE POLICE OFFICERS, THIS COUNTRY'S MOST POPULAR ENTERTAINER WOULD HAVE BEEN ASSASSINATED BY A HUMAN IN THE HEART OF SAPIEN TOWN.
THE REPERCUSSIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE.
DO WE KNOW WHERE THIS SAPIEN LEAGUE COMES FROM?
WE BELIEVE IT'S AN OFFSHOOT OF THE HUMAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, WITH A MORE RADICAL AGENDA. THEY HAVE AN INTENSE HATRED OF MUTANTS AND THEY ARE PREPARED TO DIE FOR THEIR CAUSE.
THIS GROUP ISN'T GOING FOR THE USUAL POLITICAL FIGURES. THEY SEEM TO PREFER HOUSEHOLD NAMES. A-LIST CELEBRITIES.
OUR INTELLIGENCE SUGGESTS THAT THEIR NEXT TARGET IS THIS MAN.
DANIEL KAUFMAN. ONE OF THIS CITY'S MOST CELEBRATED ENTREPRENEURS.
HIS MEDIA COMPANIES ARE TOGETHER WORTH OVER FIVE BILLION DOLLARS.
SHAKY KAUFMAN? THE CREEP'S A GANGSTER.
HE MAY BE TECHNICALLY LEGIT, BUT ONLY BECAUSE NO ONE HAS THE SMARTS TO CATCH HIM WITH HIS PANTS DOWN.


KAUFMAN'S PERSONAL INTEGRITY ISN'T YOUR CONCERN, ORTEGA.
OUR REMIT IS TO DEFUSE VOLATILE SITUATIONS BETWEEN MUTANTS AND SAPIENS.
KAUFMAN CONTROLS AROUND TEN PERCENT OF HOMEGROWN MOVIE PRODUCTIONS AND A BIG SLICE OF THE NEWS MEDIA. A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE.
SO LET'S KEEP HIM SWEET.
WHY DO YOU WANT ME ON THIS?
YOU'RE THE BEST NON-MUTANT AGENT WE HAVE.
SO THIS IS A P.R. EXERCISE. SAPIEN PROTECTS MUTANT FROM SAPIEN ATTACK. WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE IN THIS WAR ON TERROR.
IS THAT THE SPIN?
IF IT'S ANY INCENTIVE, WE'RE EXPECTING THE ATTACK TONIGHT, AT THE PREMIERE FOR KAUFMAN'S LATEST BLOCKBUSTER, "SOME LIKE IT HOTTER".
YOU GET TO SEE IT FROM THE BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE. YOU'LL ALSO MEET THE STAR OF THE MOVIE.
LARA KAUFMAN, FORMERLY LARA KING.
ALSO KNOWN AS LARA THE ILLUSIONIST, UNTIL KAUFMAN SPOTTED HER IN A VEGAS BURLESQUE SHOW AND MARRIED HER.
WHOA, I THOUGHT SHE'D BE BETTER LOOKING.
GOOGLE PULLED UP OVER A MILLION IMAGE HITS.
THIS IS THE ONLY ONE IT FOUND OF THE REAL LARA KAUFMAN.

SHE CAN MIMIC THE APPEARANCE OF ANY MOVIE STAR, ALTHOUGH I'M TOLD THE ACTORS' GUILD ONLY PERMITS HER TO WORK PROFESSIONALLY IN THE GUISE OF DECEASED ACTORS.
I'VE SEEN A COUPLE OF HER MOVIES. SHE DID DIETRICH IN THAT REMAKE OF "THE BLUE ANGEL" LAST YEAR. SHE LOOKED GOOD.
ACTING WASN'T SO HOT.
KAUFMAN'S REAL PROTECTION WILL BE PROVIDED BY THIS MAN.
THAT COP FROM THE JAZZ-E-JAZZ ATTACK?
LUCAS BISHOP. HE'S A STREET COP. KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND. GOOD WITH SAPIENS.
HE'S ALSO A POWERFUL MUTANT IN HIS OWN RIGHT. HAS FIRST-RATE BATTLE SKILLS AND TACTICAL TRAINING.
SO WHY IS HE POUNDING THE BEAT IN SAPIEN TOWN?
BECAUSE HE LIKES IT.

SAPIEN TOWN
HEY LIGHTEN UP, CUZ! IT'S ONLY PAINT!
I AM NOT YOUR COUSIN!
SAPIENS RULE
POLICE
AIN'T YOU NEVER HEARD OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT?
THIS IS FREEDOM OF SPEECH, DOG.
AND I AM DEFINITELY NOT YOUR DOG.
SEE THE BADGE?
IT SAYS NYPD.
YOU CALL ME OFFICER!
Y-YES SIR.
"SIR" WILL DO IT.
ARE YOU BISHOP?
YEAH, ORTEGA, RIGHT?
THE CHIEF FILLED ME IN. WE'RE BABYSITTING KAUFMAN.
UH-HUH. AND WE NEED TO MOVE IT. I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER THE DISTRICT FOR YOU.
I THINK YOU LOST YOUR PERP, BISHOP.
WELL THEN, GO AFTER HIM, JIMI. BOOK HIM FOR CRIMINAL DAMAGE.
CALLS ME A DOG.
BISHOP


SO ORTEGA, WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS JOB?
I'M SORRY?
DON'T BE. I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW EXACTLY YOU'RE GOING TO PROTECT ME.
THE BIG GUY, YES. I CAN SEE THAT, BUT YOU? YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL ABILITIES ON YOUR CV?
I'M NOT A MUTANT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.
AH. YOU SEE, ERIK HERE IS A PSI. NOW THAT'S USEFUL.
FOR INSTANCE, HE COULD TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING RIGHT NOW.
HONEY, DON'T EMBARRASS THE POOR GUY.

LARA, WE ARE GOING TO BE LATE. WOULD YOU *PLEASE* GET CHANGED?!
OKAY, O-*KAY*.
HOW'S THAT?
TERRIFIC.
POOH POOH BEE DOO!
AREN'T YOU *MARRIED*, ORTEGA?
I FORGET.

THE ZIEGFELD THEATRE, MANHATTAN
Ziegfeld
KAUFMAN FILMS
Presents:
SOME LIKE IT HOTTER
YEAH, KAUFMAN'S HERE.
SHOWTIME, PEOPLE. STATUS IS GREEN TO GO.

LOOK AT THAT CROWD!
FEEL-GOOD MOVIES, THAT'S WHAT THE PUBLIC WANTS.
AND WHAT THE PUBLIC WANTS, DANIEL KAUFMAN GIVES THEM--PRECOOKED, PROCESSED AND SPOON-FED.
LARA! OVER HERE!
DAILY BUGLE, LARA!
WHAT'S THE WORD? IS THIS MOVIE GOING TO BE ANOTHER HIT FOR YOU?
I - UH - THAT-

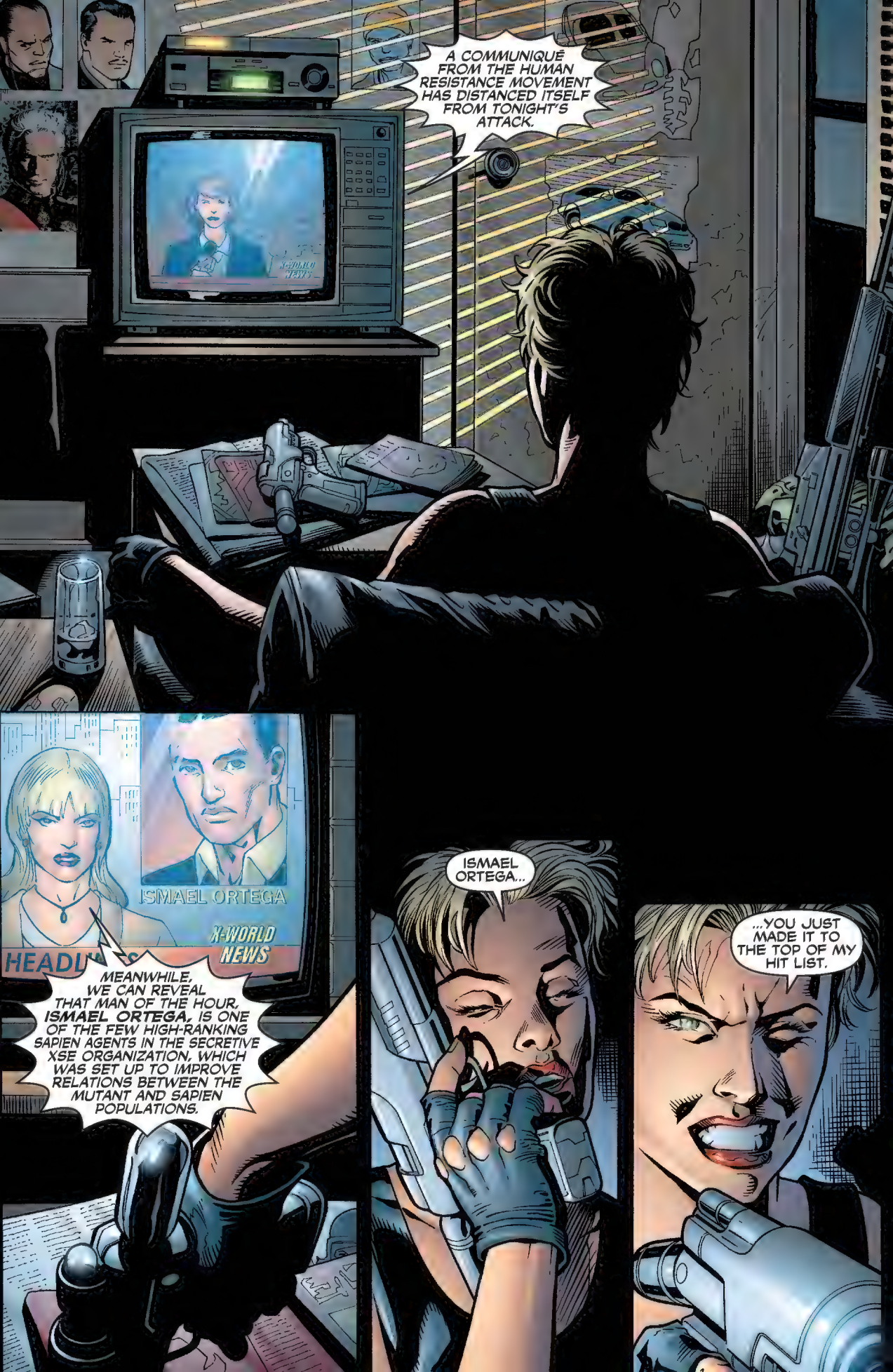
LONG LIVE THE SAPIEN LEAGUE!
ZAP
ZAP
LARA!
F-ZAP
AH!

ZAP
FWAP
GRENADE!

TAKE COVER, CITIZEN!
TAKE COVER? ARE YOU KIDDING?!
THESE CREEPS JUST RUINED MY PREMIERE!
NNNGGG-NNNGGHRRR!

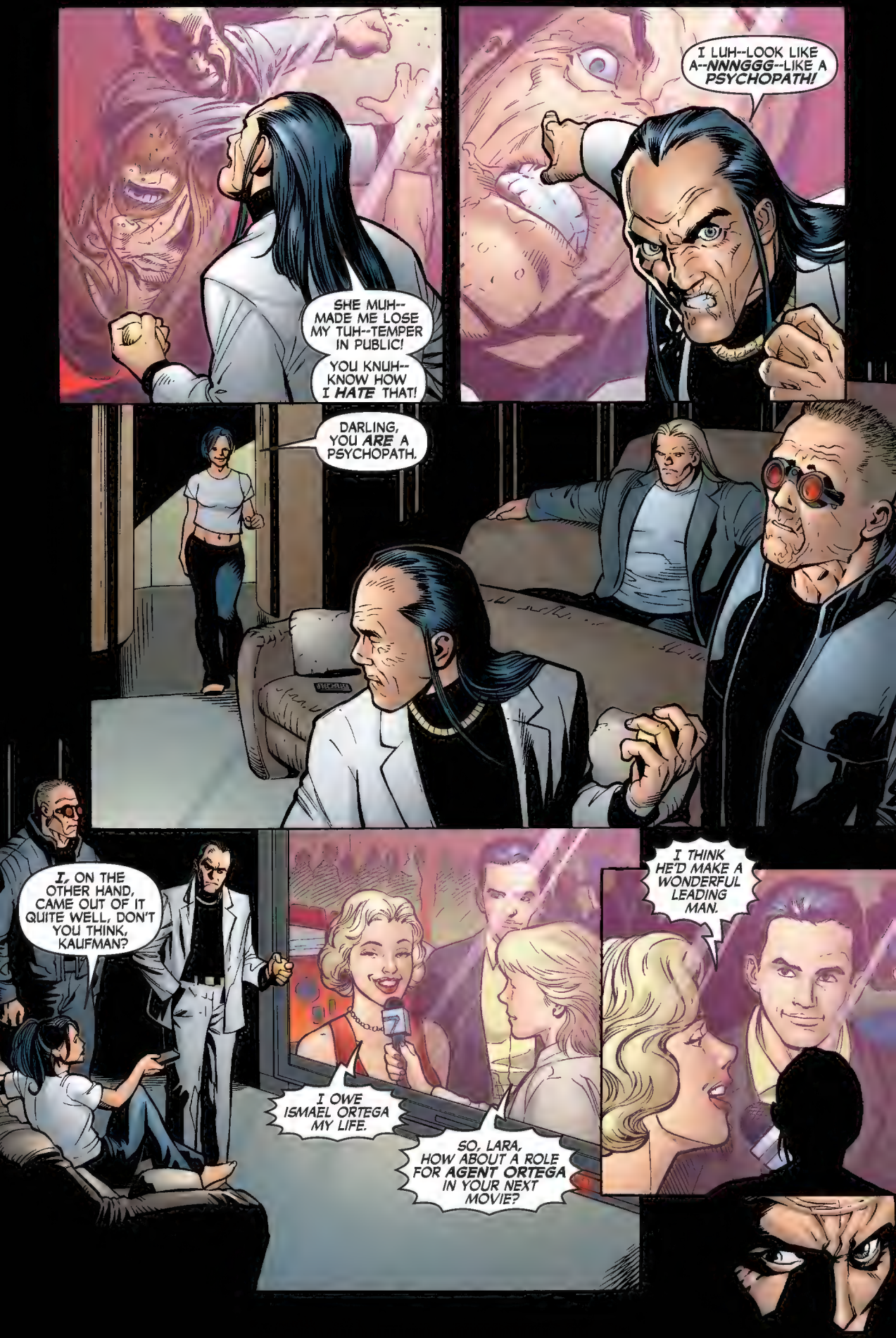
DON'T LET HER GET--
--AWAY.
H-UUK!
DAMN!

--THE SECOND TERRORIST ATTACK BY THE GROUP KNOWN AS THE SAPIEN LEAGUE--
X-WORLD NEWS
--THE HEROIC ACTION OF XSE AGENT ISMAEL ORTEGA, WHO RISKED HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE LARA KAUFMAN FROM ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH--
DADDY JUMPED ON THE LADY!
HEY, I WAS JUST DOING MY JOB.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE JUMPED ON KAUFMAN?
MOVIE MOGUL DANIEL KAUFMAN NEEDED NO PROTECTION AS HE RETALIATED IN HIS OWN INIMITABLE STYLE.
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE ALLEGED TERRORISTS HAVE SAID THEY ARE CONSIDERING PRESSING ASSAULT CHARGES AGAINST KAUFMAN.


A COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE HUMAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT HAS DISTANCED ITSELF FROM TONIGHT'S ATTACK.
ISMAEL ORTEGA
X-WORLD NEWS
MEANWHILE, WE CAN REVEAL THAT MAN OF THE HOUR, ISMAEL ORTEGA, IS ONE OF THE FEW HIGH-RANKING SAPIEN AGENTS IN THE SECRETIVE XSE ORGANIZATION, WHICH WAS SET UP TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MUTANT AND SAPIEN POPULATIONS.
ISMAEL ORTEGA...
...YOU JUST MADE IT TO THE TOP OF MY HIT LIST.

MUTOPIA X #2

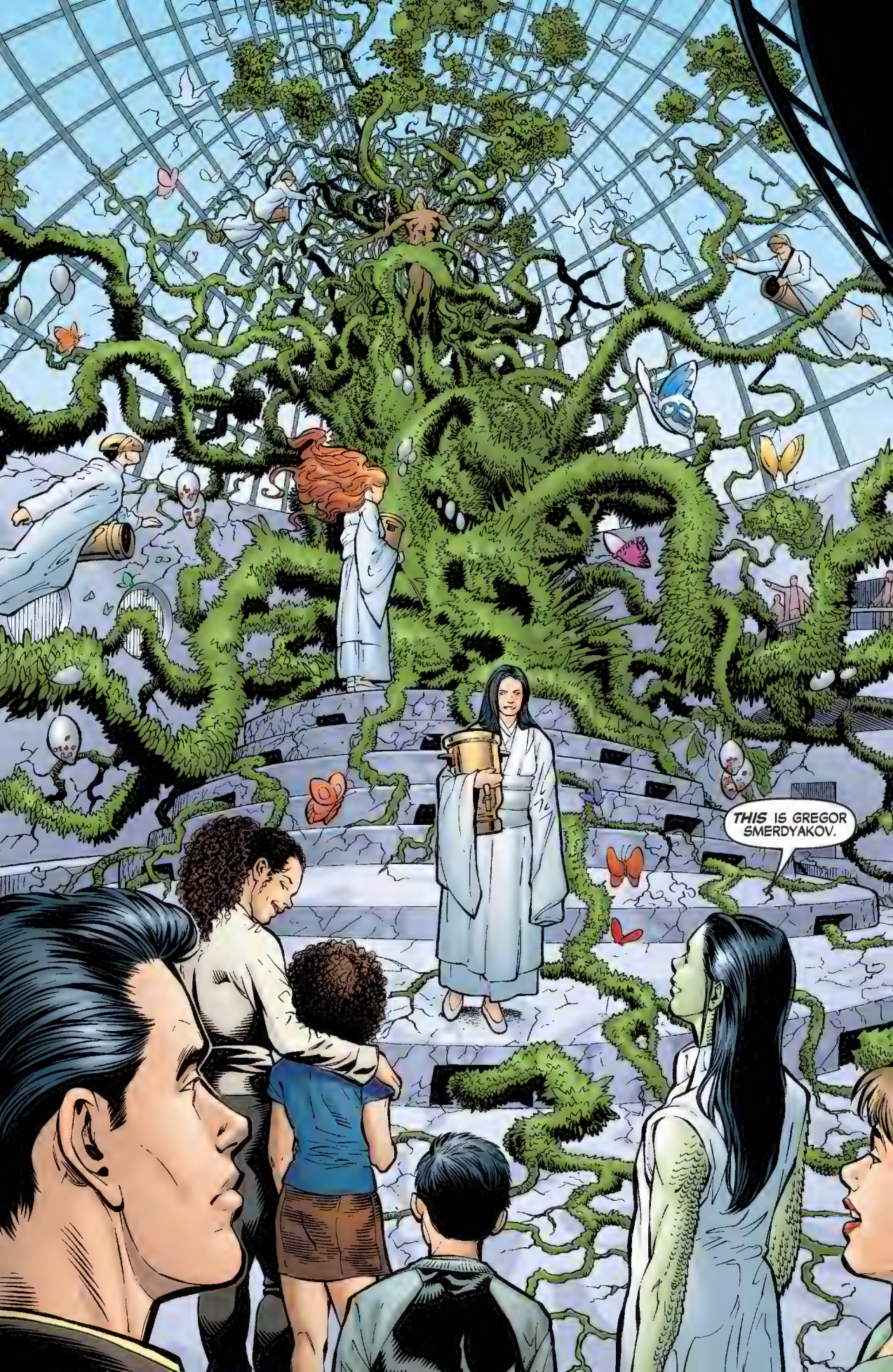
I WANT HER!
YOU FIND HER! YOU FUH--FIND HER BEFORE THE FUH--FEDS GET TO HER, AND YOU BRING HER TO MUH--ME!
THAT BUH-BUH-BIMBO TRIED TO KUH--KILL ME!


SHE MUH--MADE ME LOSE MY TUH--TEMPER IN PUBLIC!
YOU KNUH--KNOW HOW I HATE THAT!
I LUH--LOOK LIKE A--NNNGGG--LIKE A PSYCHOPATH!
DARLING, YOU ARE A PSYCHOPATH.
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, CAME OUT OF IT QUITE WELL, DON'T YOU THINK, KAUFMAN?
I OWE ISMAEL ORTEGA MY LIFE.
SO, LARA, HOW ABOUT A ROLE FOR AGENT ORTEGA IN YOUR NEXT MOVIE?
I THINK HE'D MAKE A WONDERFUL LEADING MAN.

Call me
212-555-978
L
IZZY, I JUST GOT A CALL FROM MUTOPIA. CHAMAYRA'S MENTOR SAYS SHE'S NOW READY FOR THE RITE OF TRANSFORMATION.
ALREADY?
HER MENTOR SET UP A MEETING WITH ABSOLON MERCATOR FOR TOMORROW. IF IT GOES WELL, THEY MAY BE ABLE TO FIT CHAMAYRA INTO MUTOPIA'S NEXT TRANSITION DAY.
TRANSITION INTO WHAT?
"INTO WHAT?" WHATEVER SHE WAS MEANT TO BE.
MAYBE SHE WAS MEANT TO BE THE WAY SHE IS.
SHE HAS MUTANT GENES, IZZY.
SHE WAS MEANT TO BE A MUTANT.

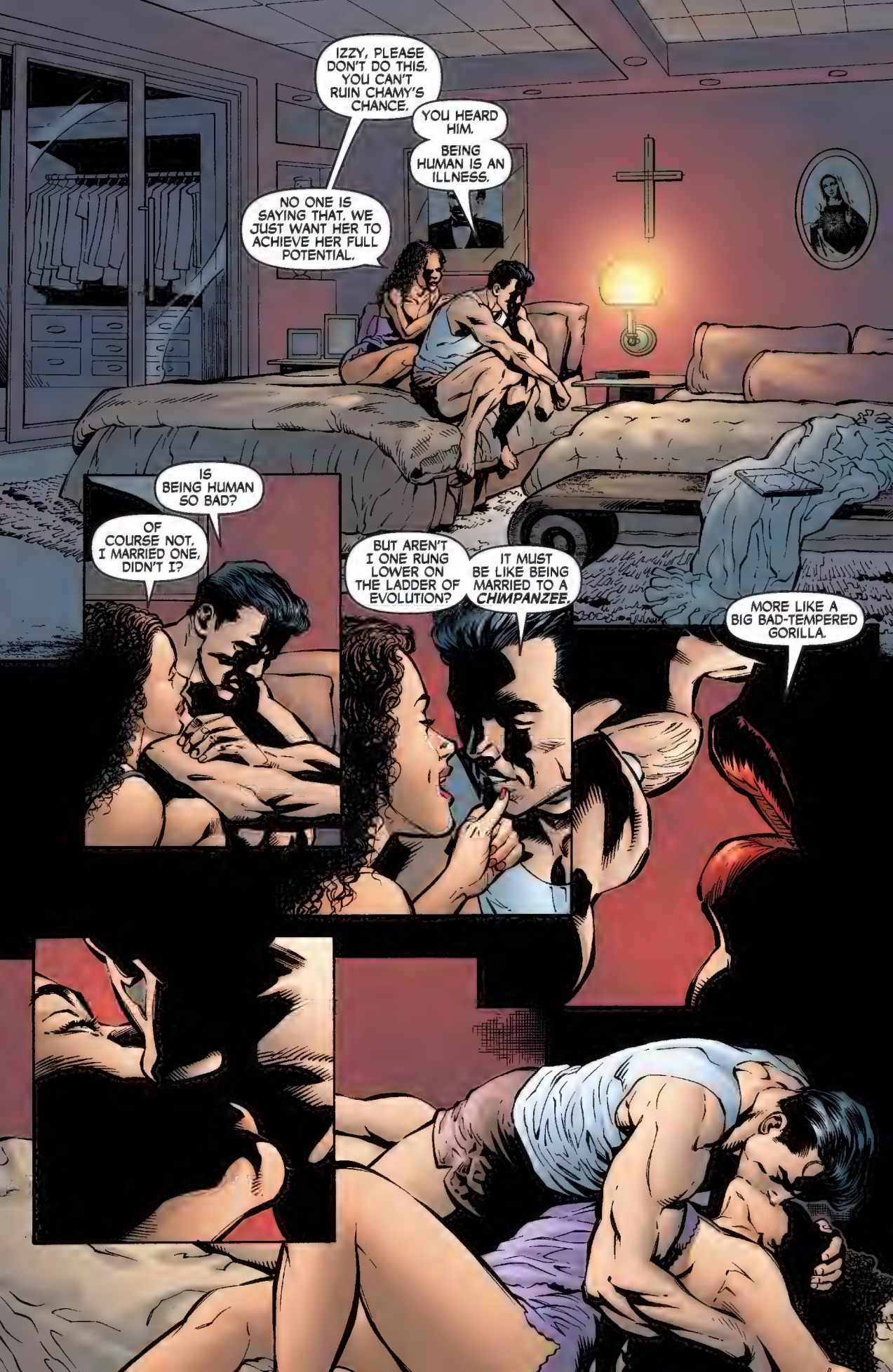
"HAVE YOU SEEN THE WAY SHE LOOKS AT ESTEBAN? SHE NEEDS TO KNOW, IZZY. SHE NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT SHE CAN BE."
MUTOPIA: CENTRE FOR TRANSFORMATION AND ILLUMINATION
MUTOPIA MUTATIS MUTANDIS
THAT'S RIGHT, 'CAUSE IT WOULD BE TOO HEAVY FOR YOU, 'CAUSE LIKE, I CAN IMAGINE THINGS THAT WOULD MAKE YOU GO, LIKE, TOTALLY INSANE IN ONE MILLISECOND.
YOU ARE SO IMMATURE.
MAYBE SHE'LL BE LIKE MOM AND JUST OOZE OUT GUNK WHEN SHE SLEEPS.
MAYBE.
YOU JUST BETTER NOT TURN OUT TO BE A PSI.
ESTEBAN, THERE IS NO WAY I WOULD WANT TO KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN YOUR HEAD.

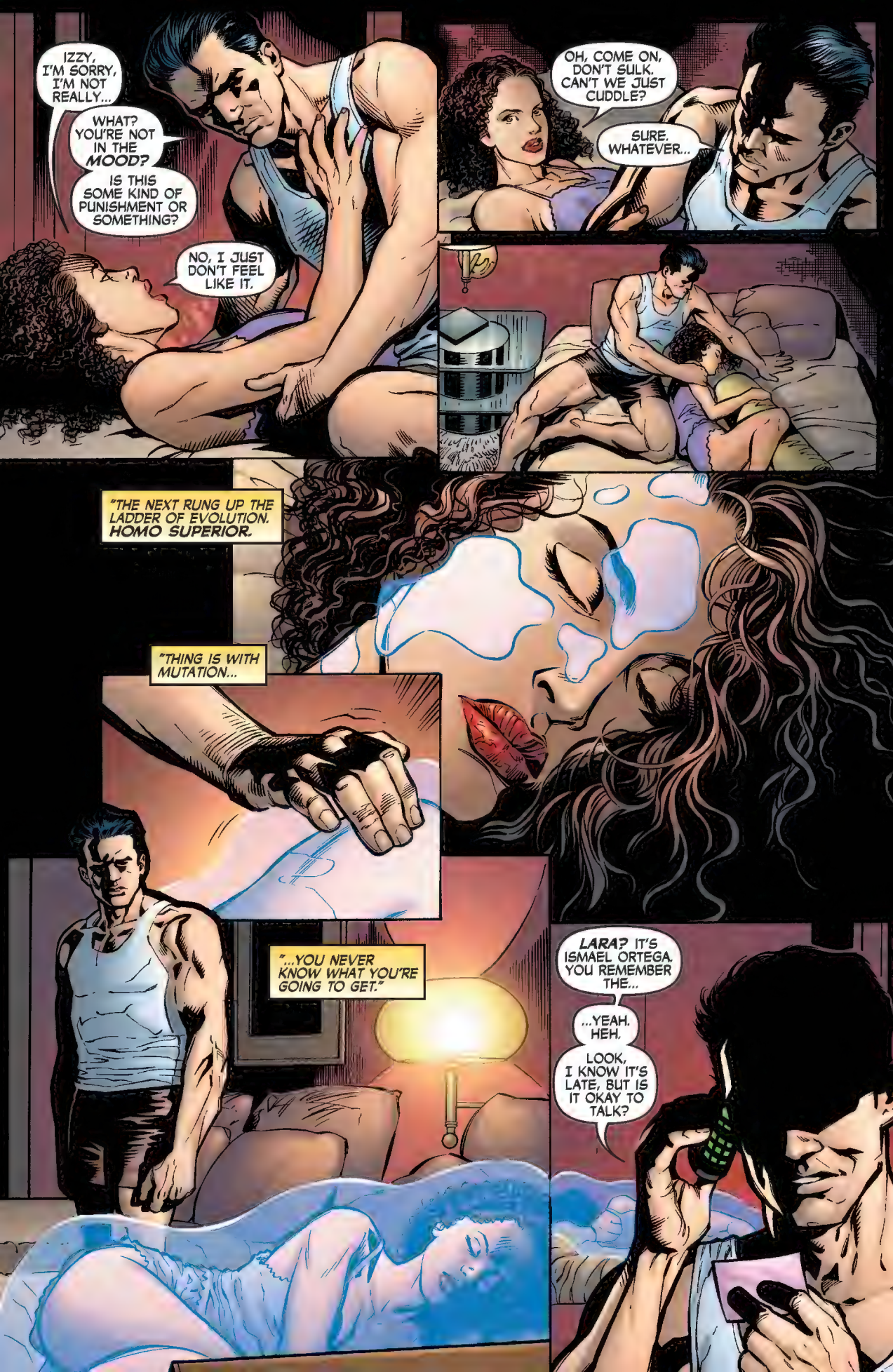
IZZY, THIS IS PATRICIA HAMILTON, CHAMY'S MENTOR.
MR. ORTEGA, I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
THESE MURALS WERE PAINTED BY THE VISIONARY ARTIST NEMESIO PIETRI. HE FORESAW THE COMING OF SENSEI ABSOLON AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF BROTHER GREGOR.
GREGOR IS THE TREE, RIGHT?
BROTHER GREGOR WAS A MYSTIC AND PHILOSOPHER.
AFTER MEETING WITH THE SENSEI, HE CHOSE TO RELINQUISH HIS HUMAN FORM...
...TO EVOLVE, AS A CATERPILLAR EVOLVES INTO ITS PERFECT FORM, THE IMAGO.


THIS IS GREGOR SMERDYAKOV.

WE USE *THIS FRUIT* IN THE RITE OF TRANSFORMATION. IT HAS MORPHOGEN-BOOSTING PROPERTIES WHICH HELP TO UNLOCK MUTANT POTENTIAL IN THOSE SUFFERING FROM ARRESTED GENETIC DEVELOPMENT.
SO WHY NOT JUST *HAND OUT* THE FRUIT?
BECAUSE *"AGD"* AFFECTS ALMOST 1% OF THE POPULATION. THAT'S ABOUT *SIXTY MILLION* PEOPLE WORLDWIDE.
BESIDES, THE FRUIT ALONE DOESN'T ENABLE FULL MUTATION. IT TAKES THE TRANSFORMATIONAL POWERS OF THE SENSEI TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS.
THE WONDERFUL MR. MERCATOR.
DO I DETECT A NOTE OF *IRONY*?
AH...MISTER--UM--SENSEI...
SENSEI IS A TERM OF GREAT RESPECT...
...I'M NOT SURE THAT I'VE YET EARNED YOUR RESPECT, MR. ORTEGA.
I JUST THINK, ALL THIS...
LISTEN, I'M NOT... ALL OF THIS STUFF IS JUST WAY TOO *MYSTICAL* FOR ME.

THEN THINK OF ARRESTED GENETIC DEVELOPMENT AS A MEDICAL CONDITION.
AND WE HAVE FOUND A WAY TO TREAT IT.
THAT'S WHAT MUTOPIA IS ABOUT. WE CAN CURE YOUR DAUGHTER'S CONDITION.
CONDITION? YOU MEAN ILLNESS?
I WOULDN'T USE--
SEE, THE THING IS...WHAT I'M ASKING MYSELF IS, WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS ILLNESS?
RIGHT NOW MY DAUGHTER IS JUST LIKE ANY SAPIEN. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HER. SHE'S HUMAN.
SO IT SEEMS LIKE YOU THINK BEING HUMAN IS AN ILLNESS.
YOU SEE WHAT I'M SAYING, SENSEI?
I SEE THAT YOU ARE NOT YET READY TO ALLOW YOUR DAUGHTER TO ACHIEVE HER FULL POTENTIAL.
ISMAEL! TELL HIM THAT YOU--
NO, MRS. ORTEGA. ALL OF YOU MUST BE WILLING.
ALL THREE OF YOU.
DADDY?
PLEASE, TAKE SOME MORE TIME. LET US KNOW WHEN YOU'VE DECIDED.
I'M SORRY.
WE CAN PROBABLY HOLD CHAMAYRA'S PLACE IN THE CEREMONY FOR TWO DAYS. AFTER THAT, I'M AFRAID YOU WILL NEED TO RE-APPLY.

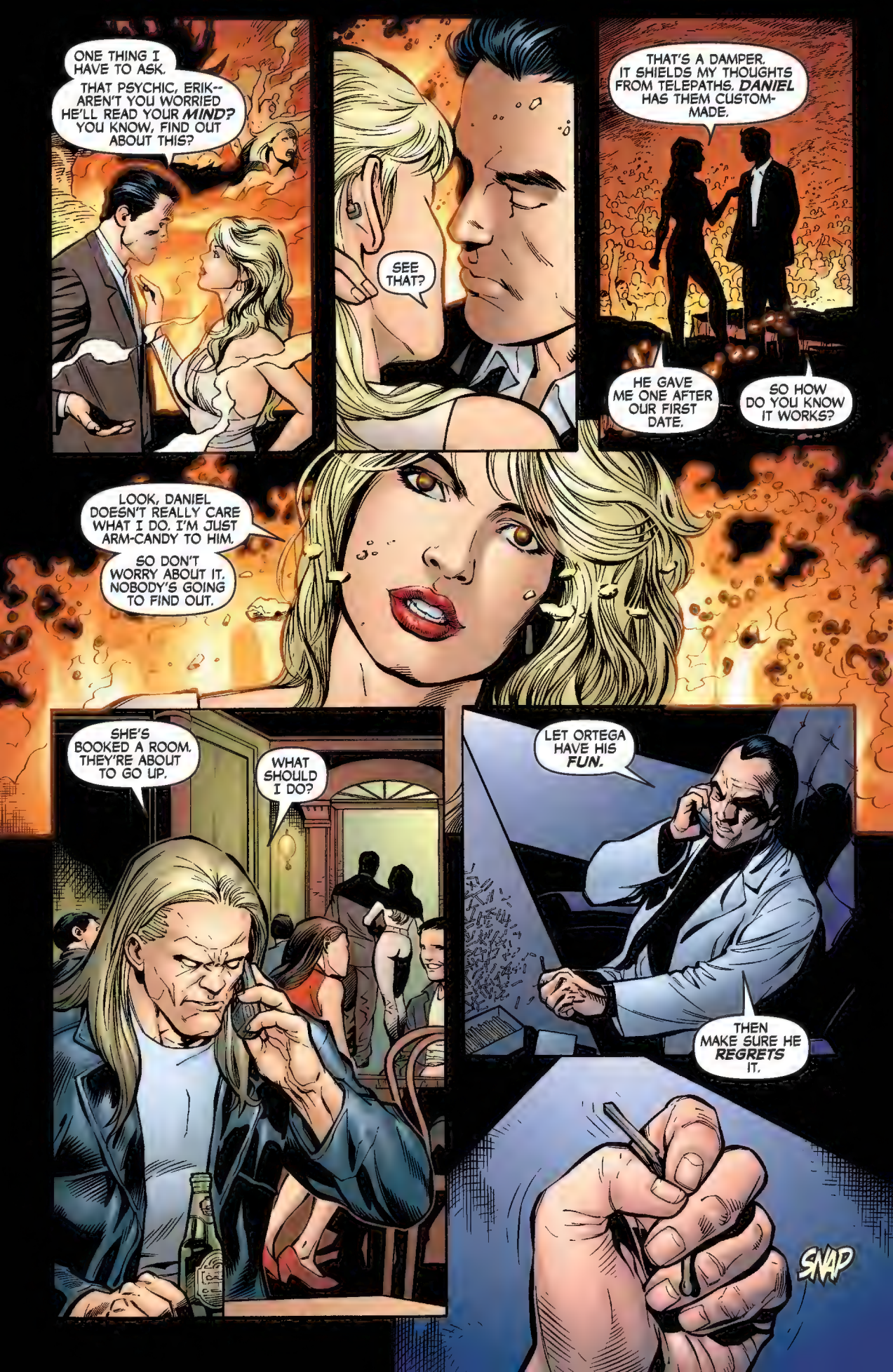

IZZY, PLEASE DON'T DO THIS. YOU CAN'T RUIN CHAMY'S CHANCE.
YOU HEARD HIM.
BEING HUMAN IS AN ILLNESS.
NO ONE IS SAYING THAT. WE JUST WANT HER TO ACHIEVE HER FULL POTENTIAL.
IS BEING HUMAN SO BAD?
OF COURSE NOT. I MARRIED ONE, DIDN'T I?
BUT AREN'T I ONE RUNG LOWER ON THE LADDER OF EVOLUTION?
IT MUST BE LIKE BEING MARRIED TO A *CHIMPANZEE*.
MORE LIKE A BIG BAD-TEMPERED GORILLA.

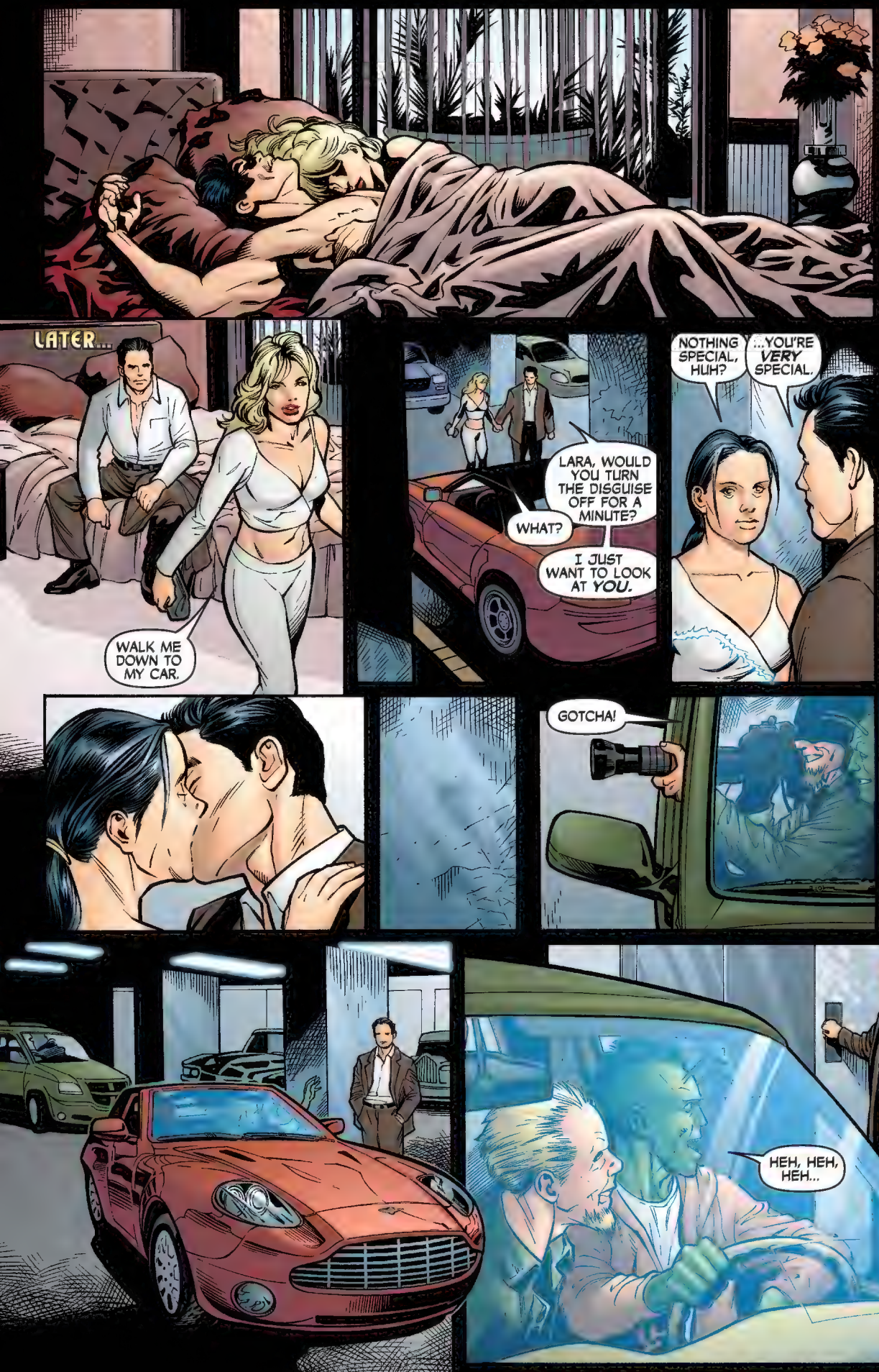

IZZY, I'M SORRY, I'M NOT REALLY...
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT IN THE MOOD?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF PUNISHMENT OR SOMETHING?
NO, I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.
OH, COME ON, DON'T SULK. CAN'T WE JUST CUDDLE?
SURE. WHATEVER...
"THE NEXT RUNG UP THE LADDER OF EVOLUTION. HOMO SUPERIOR.
"THING IS WITH MUTATION...
"...YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET."
LARA? IT'S ISMAEL ORTEGA. YOU REMEMBER THE...
...YEAH. HEH.
LOOK, I KNOW IT'S LATE, BUT IS IT OKAY TO TALK?

THE NEXT DAY
MAN, HERE I WAS THINKING PAPPARAZZI AS A GLAM PROFESSION.
NOPE. IT'S DULL, BORING AND FRUSTRATING.
BUT WHEN YOU GET THAT ONE SHOT, THE PICTURE THAT GOES AROUND THE WORLD. THAT'S LIKE THE BIGGEST BUZZ IN THE WORLD.
BETTER THAN A HIT OF PURE COLOMBIAN.
BETTER THAN SEX.
BETTER THAN SEX?
UH-HUH.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD STOP DATING THAT CHICK FROM ACCOUNTING.
SO HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO BE DOING THIS?
COUPLE MORE DAYS. IF THEY DON'T HOOK UP BY THEN, IT AIN'T HAPPENING.
I SAY IT AIN'T HAPPENING, PERIOD.
I GOT HER ON FILM SLIPPING THE GUY A NOTE.
MAYBE SHE WAS JUST FLIRTING, BUT MY RADAR SAYS--
--HEY, THAT'S HER!

YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING! SHE MAKES ME LOOK CUTE.
THAT'S HER CAR. IT'S HER!
THE STARLIGHT BAR AT THE HOTEL FLAMINGO
HELLO, ISMAEL.
LARA?
YOU LIKE IT?
IT'S...NOT QUITE WHAT I WAS EXPECTING.
IT'S THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING A SHAPE-SHIFTER. I CAN GO OUT WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.
IS THIS BETTER?
OH YEAH.

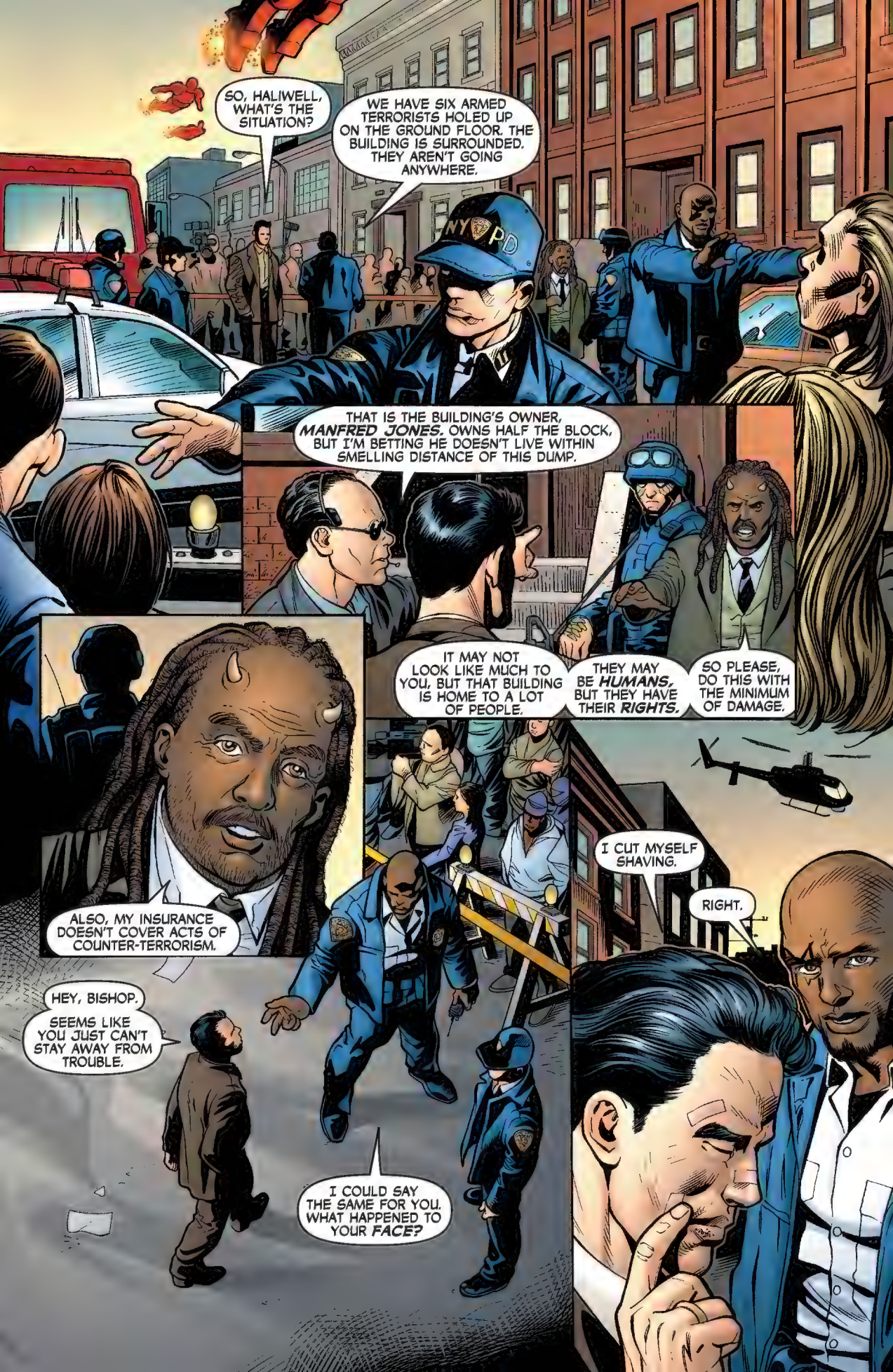
I CAN DO MORE THAN THAT. THE SHAPE-SHIFTING IS JUST FOR THE CAMERAS. I CAN DO ILLUSIONS, TOO.
I'M GUESSING YOUR INTERESTS TEND TO THE... EXOTIC.
C-CAN ANYONE ELSE SEE THIS?
THIS IS JUST FOR US, TIGER.
HOW ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND?
WHAT GETS KAUFMAN HOT TO TROT?
LET'S MAKE ONE THING CLEAR...
...YOU DON'T ASK ABOUT MY HUSBAND, AND I DON'T ASK WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR WIFE, OKAY?
OKAY.


ONE THING I HAVE TO ASK.
THAT PSYCHIC, ERIK-- AREN'T YOU WORRIED HE'LL READ YOUR MIND? YOU KNOW, FIND OUT ABOUT THIS?
SEE THAT?
THAT'S A DAMPER. IT SHIELDS MY THOUGHTS FROM TELEPATHS. DANIEL HAS THEM CUSTOM-MADE.
HE GAVE ME ONE AFTER OUR FIRST DATE.
SO HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WORKS?
LOOK, DANIEL DOESN'T REALLY CARE WHAT I DO. I'M JUST ARM-CANDY TO HIM.
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. NOBODY'S GOING TO FIND OUT.
SHE'S BOOKED A ROOM. THEY'RE ABOUT TO GO UP.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
LET ORTEGA HAVE HIS FUN.
THEN MAKE SURE HE REGRETS IT.
SNAP


LATER...
WALK ME DOWN TO MY CAR.
LARA, WOULD YOU TURN THE DISGUISE OFF FOR A MINUTE?
WHAT?
I JUST WANT TO LOOK AT YOU.
NOTHING SPECIAL, HUH?
...YOU'RE VERY SPECIAL.
GOTCHA!
HEH, HEH, HEH...

OH, DAMN.
MESSAGE FROM MR. KAUFMAN. HE HOPES YOU ENJOYED YOURSELF.
HE HOPES IT WAS *WORTH* IT.
YEAH. IT WAS W--
NO, MR. ORTEGA. DON'T ANSWER YET.
NOW, I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN.
WAS IT WORTH IT?

OH MY--
--WHAT HAPPENED?
I WAS MUGGED.
LOOK AT YOU. POOR BABY!
WHERE DID IT HAPPEN? DID YOU GO TO THE POLICE?
IT'S NOT *WORTH* IT. THEY ONLY TOOK A FEW BUCKS.
BUT YOU'RE A FEDERAL AGENT. YOU *HAVE* TO REPORT IT.
LOOK. IT'S EMBARASSING, OKAY?
I LET A COUPLE OF LOWLIFES GET THE JUMP ON ME.
IT'S NOT *WORTH* IT.
BRRRRP
THEY DIDN'T TAKE YOUR *PHONE?*
ORTEGA.
OKAY, I'M ON MY WAY.
YOU HAVE TO GO OUT *AGAIN?*
WE'VE FOUND THE TERRORISTS' SAFE HOUSE.

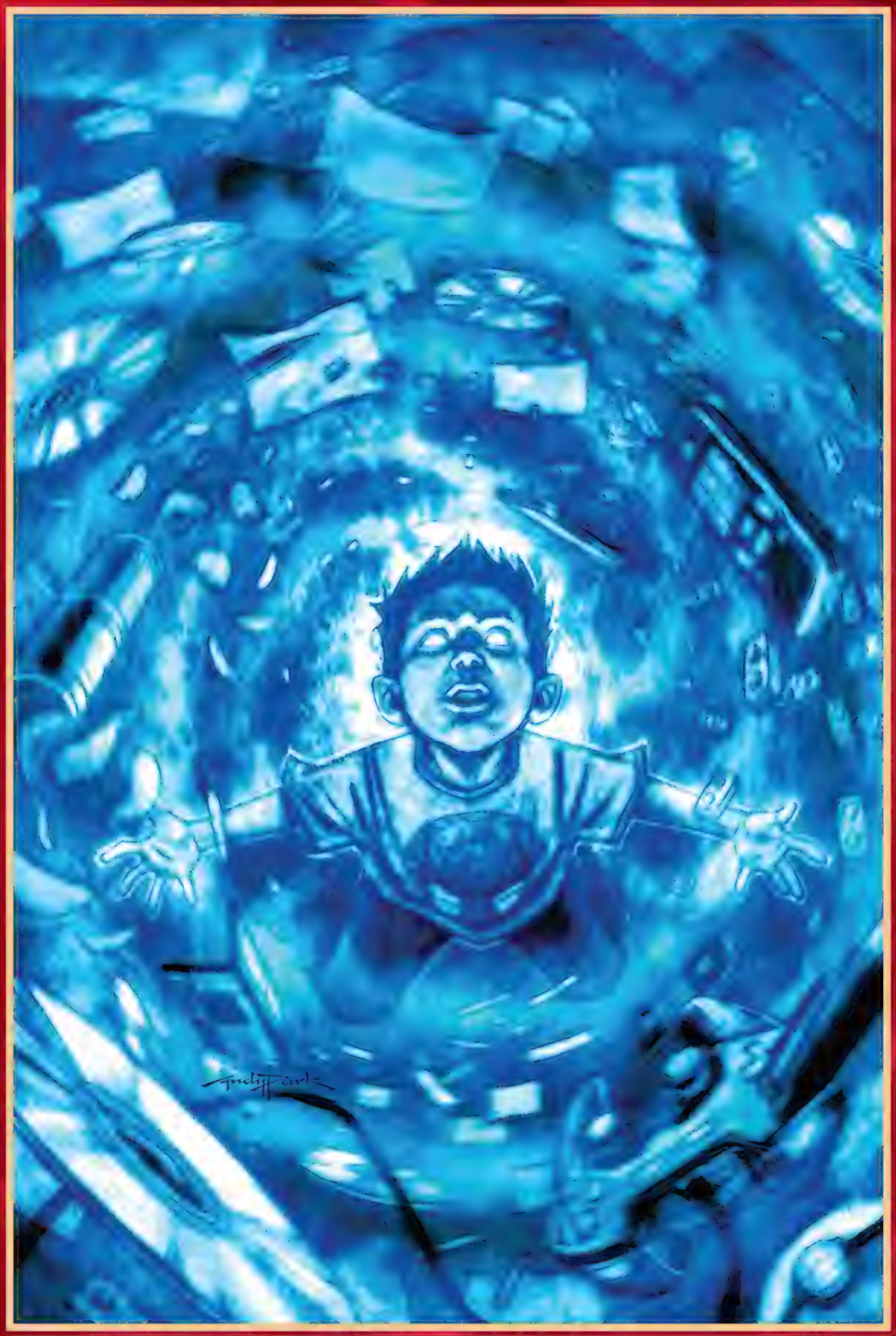

SO, HALIWELL, WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
WE HAVE SIX ARMED TERRORISTS HOLED UP ON THE GROUND FLOOR. THE BUILDING IS SURROUNDED. THEY AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
NYPD
THAT IS THE BUILDING'S OWNER, MANFRED JONES. OWNS HALF THE BLOCK, BUT I'M BETTING HE DOESN'T LIVE WITHIN SMELLING DISTANCE OF THIS DUMP.
IT MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH TO YOU, BUT THAT BUILDING IS HOME TO A LOT OF PEOPLE.
THEY MAY BE HUMANS, BUT THEY HAVE THEIR RIGHTS.
SO PLEASE, DO THIS WITH THE MINIMUM OF DAMAGE.
ALSO, MY INSURANCE DOESN'T COVER ACTS OF COUNTER-TERRORISM.
HEY, BISHOP. SEEMS LIKE YOU JUST CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM TROUBLE.
I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR YOU. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
I CUT MYSELF SHAVING.
RIGHT.

SO WHAT'S THE PROGNOSIS? YOU THINK THEY'LL COME OUT QUIETLY?
PROBABLY...
...NOT.
WHOOOMMM
OUCH.

PERMISSION TO CLEAR THAT BUILDING WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE?
GRANTED.
JUST GIVE ME A COUPLE OF SECONDS TO POWER THIS SUCKER UP.
POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK
WHAMMPH
OH MAN!
WHAT DID I JUST SAY?!

CITY HALL IS GOING TO BE HEARING FROM ME!
AND YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM HOMELAND SECURITY.
PROVIDING REFUGE FOR TERRORISTS...
...WE WON'T EVEN HAVE TO GIVE YOU A FAIR TRIAL.
BRRRRP
YOU DON'T SCARE ME! I GOT FRIENDS!
LARA? ARE YOU OKAY?
DANIEL TOLD ME WHAT ERIK DID TO YOU. I'M REALLY SORRY, ISMAEL.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DID HE HURT YOU?
ME? NO. HE'S TAKING IT OUT ON MY STUFF.
LISTEN ISMAEL, HE DOESN'T CARE THAT MUCH ABOUT ME. HE ONLY HAD YOU WORKED OVER BECAUSE YOU MESSED WITH HIS PROPERTY.
AS LONG AS WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, HE WON'T COME AFTER YOU.
SMASH
JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING ELSE TO MAKE HIM MAD.

THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE
SO, UH... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
LOOK AT THIS FACE. AM I SMILING?
SHE'S SMILING.
BELIEVE ME, THAT'S A SMILE.
KAUFMAN'S BEEN RUNNING AROUND THIS TOWN LIKE HE OWNS IT FOR *TOO LONG!* IT'S HIGH TIME HIS NOSE WAS PUT OUT OF JOINT.
OH, WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO BE A FLY ON HIS WALL WHEN HE SEES *THIS!*
THE PULSE
NO ILLUSION! LARA K. DOES HER BIT FOR MUTANT/SAPIEN RELATIONS



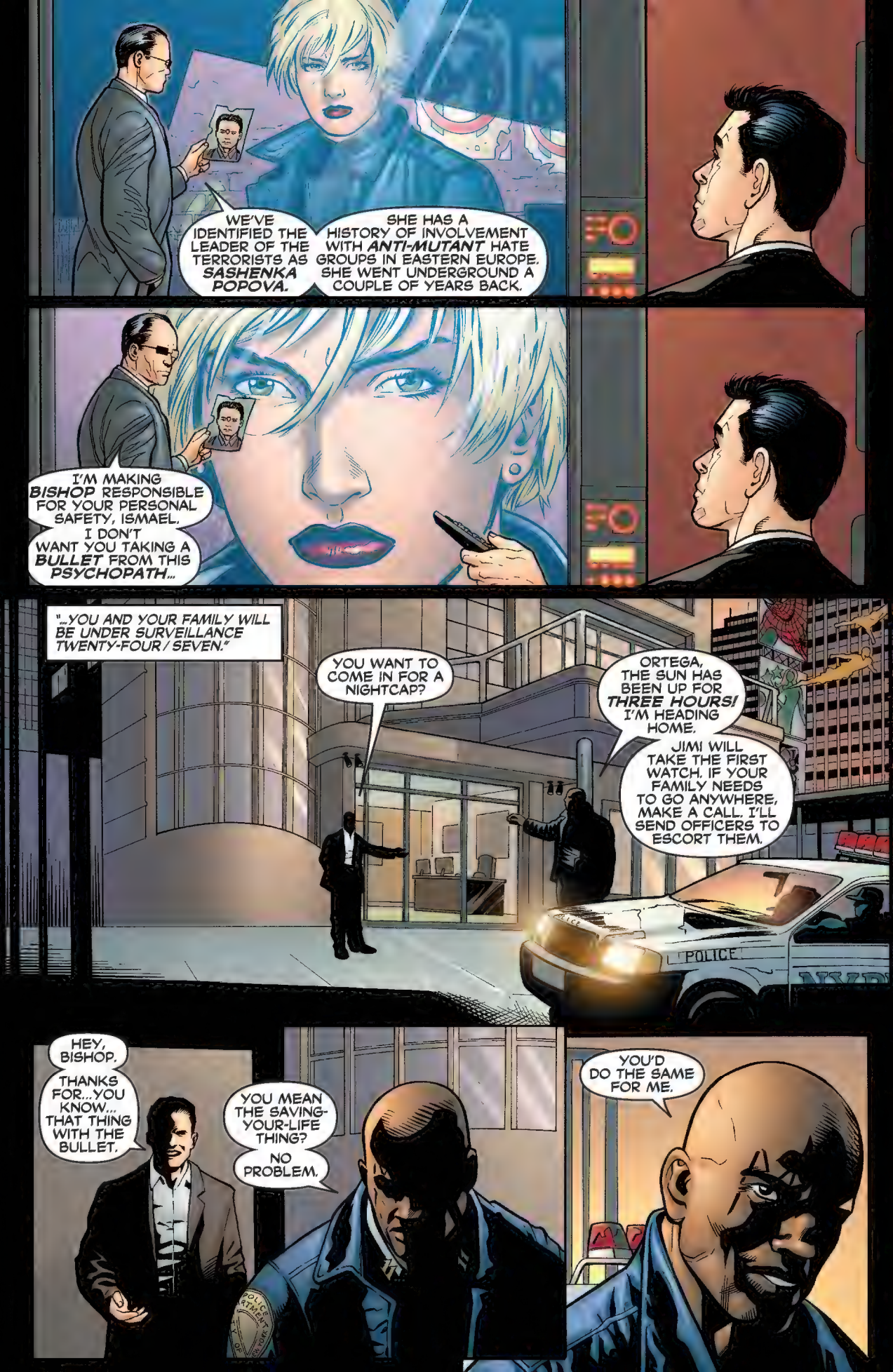
MUTOPIA X #3

HEY BISHOP, YOU THINK YOU USED ENOUGH FIREPOWER?
ALRIGHT, LET'S SECURE THE AREA AND GET FORENSICS IN HERE TO SEE WHAT THEY CAN DO WITH THIS MESS.
HEY, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S GOT IT IN FOR YOU, ORTEGA.

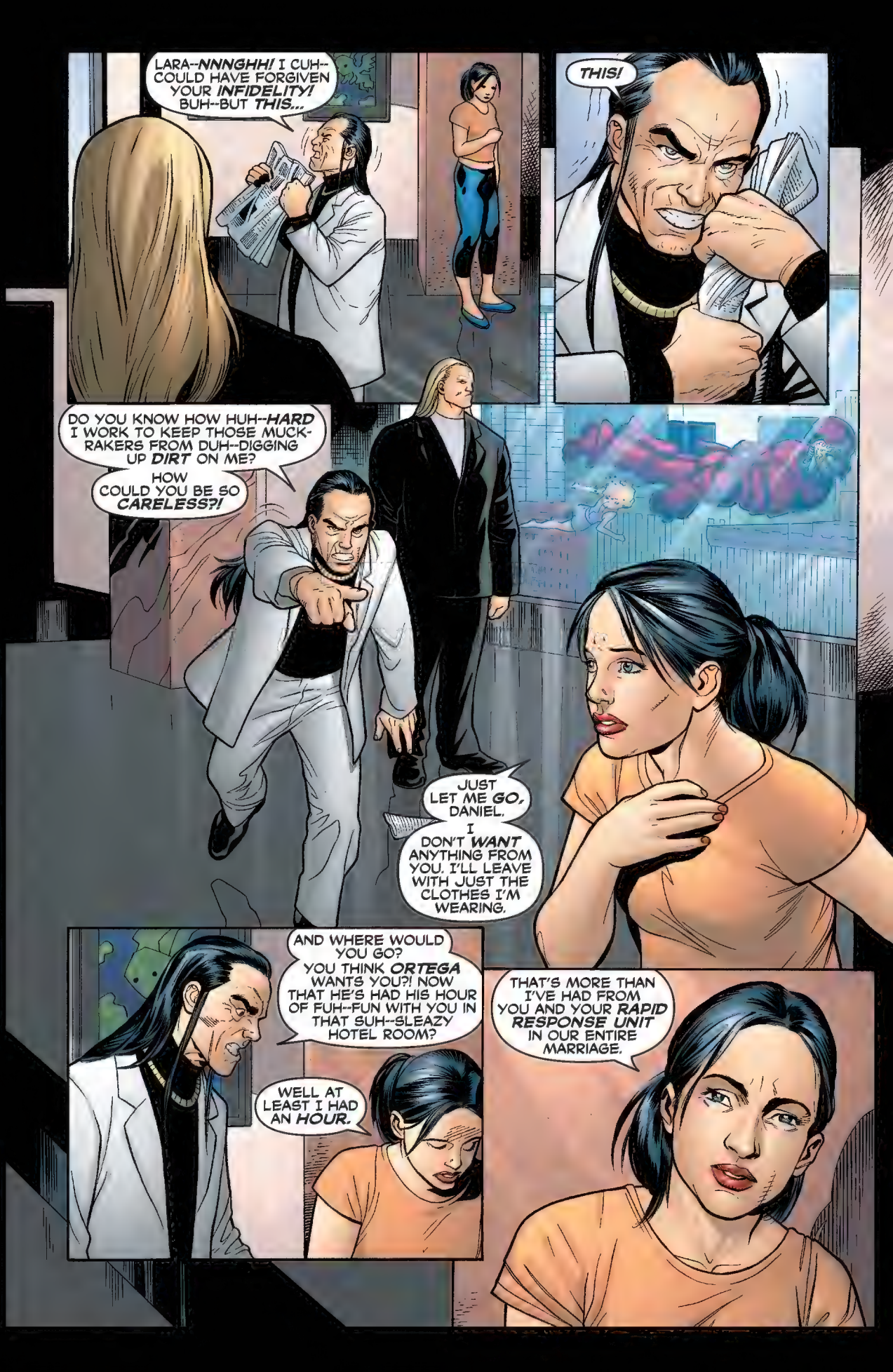
I THOUGHT THESE GUYS WERE TARGETING MUTANTS. DON'T THEY KNOW I'M A SAPIEN?
TRAITOR!
BLAMM
SWAT
LONG LIVE THE S--
UKKKK!

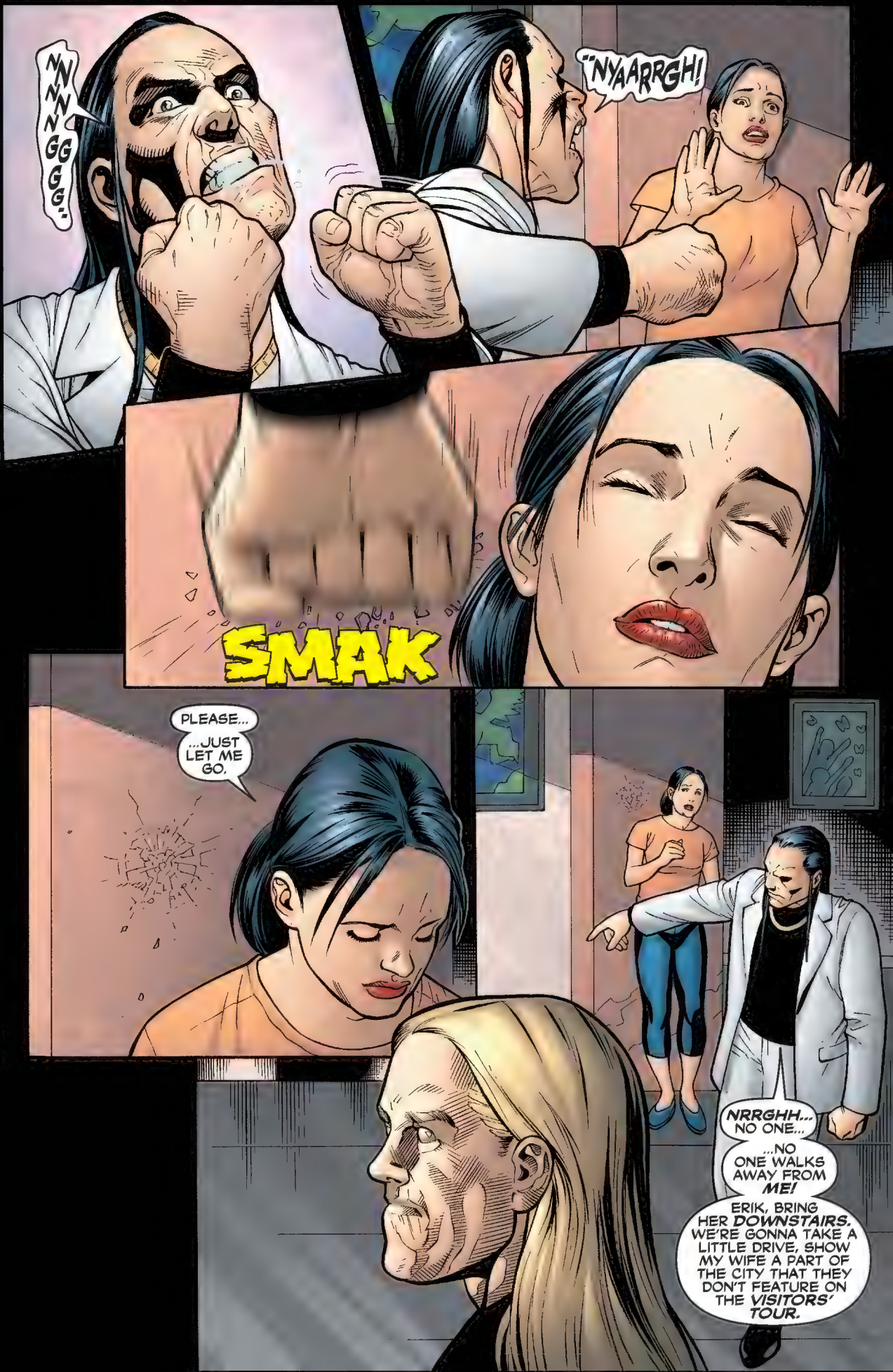
HERE...
...SOUVENIR.
SO IS THIS THE WOMAN WHO LED THE ATTACK AT THE ZIEGFELD?
NOPE, NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE.
WHAT A *WASTE*. I MEAN, WHERE THE *HELL* DOES ALL THAT HATE COME FROM?
OH *SHOOT!* GUYS, THERE'S SOME KIND OF TUNNEL HERE.
IF THIS GROUP'S LEADER WAS HERE, THE SMART MONEY SAYS SHE'S LONG GONE NOW...

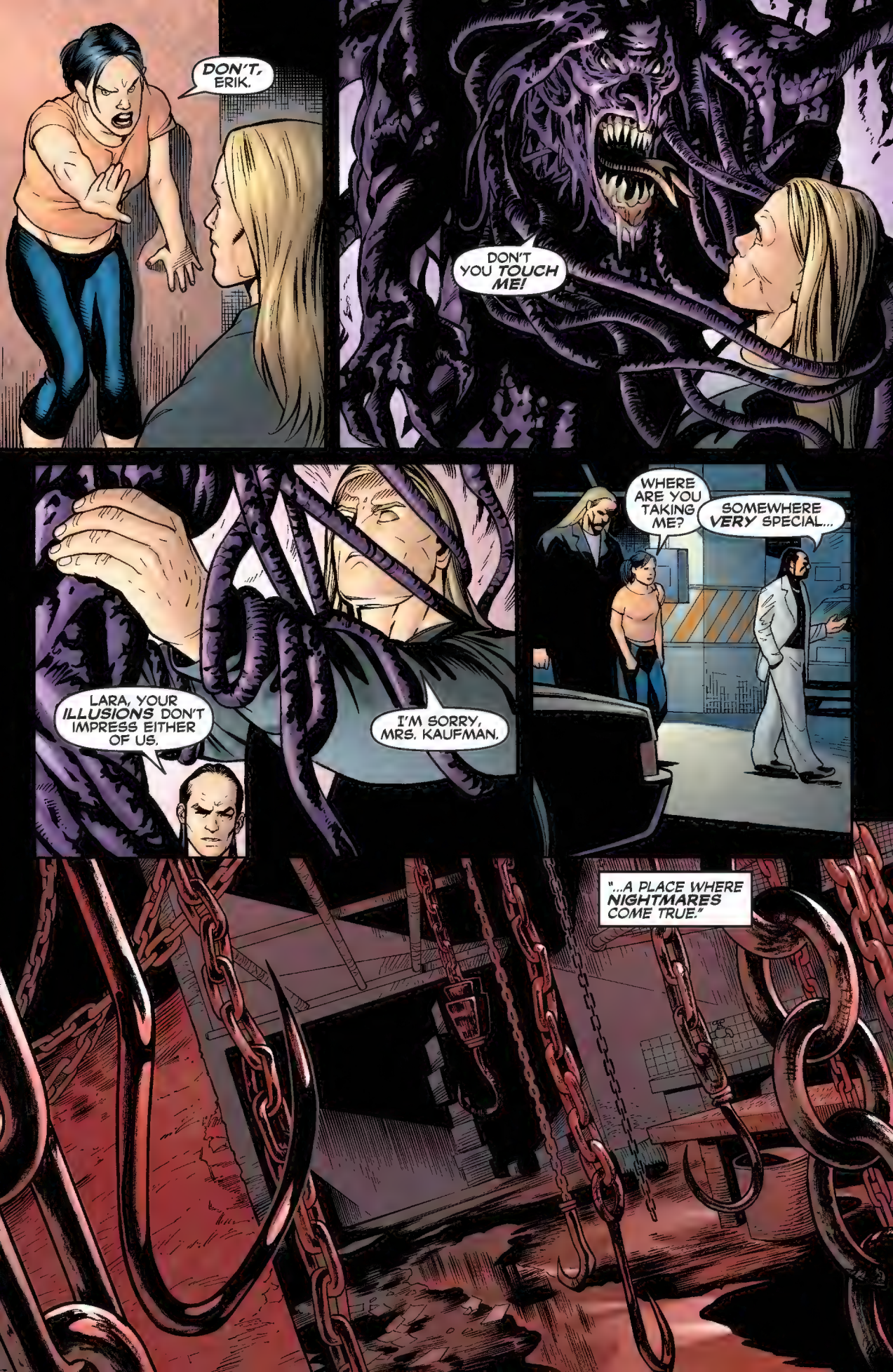
OKAY, THAT'S HER. SHE'S UNDERGROUND, HEADING SOUTHEAST.
LET'S PICK HER UP.
OKAY, LADY, YOU'VE GOT *TWO CHOICES,* AND ONE OF THEM MEANS YOU END UP WITH A COUPL'A POUNDS OF *LEAD* IN YOU.
GOOD CHOICE.
WE HAVE HER, MR. KAUFMAN.
BRING HER IN.
I INTEND TO GIVE THAT WOMAN A BIT OF A...*TALKING TO.*


WE'VE IDENTIFIED THE LEADER OF THE TERRORISTS AS SASHENKA POPOVA.
SHE HAS A HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT WITH ANTI-MUTANT HATE GROUPS IN EASTERN EUROPE. SHE WENT UNDERGROUND A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK.
I'M MAKING BISHOP RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY, ISMAEL. I DON'T WANT YOU TAKING A BULLET FROM THIS PSYCHOPATH...
"...YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WILL BE UNDER SURVEILLANCE TWENTY-FOUR / SEVEN."
YOU WANT TO COME IN FOR A NIGHTCAP?
ORTEGA, THE SUN HAS BEEN UP FOR THREE HOURS! I'M HEADING HOME.
JIMI WILL TAKE THE FIRST WATCH. IF YOUR FAMILY NEEDS TO GO ANYWHERE, MAKE A CALL. I'LL SEND OFFICERS TO ESCORT THEM.
POLICE
HEY, BISHOP.
THANKS FOR...YOU KNOW... THAT THING WITH THE BULLET.
YOU MEAN THE SAVING-YOUR-LIFE THING?
NO PROBLEM.
YOU'D DO THE SAME FOR ME.

ARMENA? YOUR LOVER MAN'S HOME!
WHAT--?
THE PULSE
NO ILLUSION! LARA K DOES HER BIT FOR MUTANT/SAPIEN RELATIONS!
ARMENA?
SWEETHEART, LISTEN, I--


LARA--NNNGHH! I CUH--COULD HAVE FORGIVEN YOUR INFIDELITY! BUH--BUT THIS...
THIS!
DO YOU KNOW HOW HUH--HARD I WORK TO KEEP THOSE MUCK-RAKERS FROM DUH--DIGGING UP DIRT ON ME?
HOW COULD YOU BE SO CARELESS?!
JUST LET ME GO, DANIEL.
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING FROM YOU. I'LL LEAVE WITH JUST THE CLOTHES I'M WEARING.
AND WHERE WOULD YOU GO? YOU THINK ORTEGA WANTS YOU?! NOW THAT HE'S HAD HIS HOUR OF FUH--FUN WITH YOU IN THAT SUH--SLEAZY HOTEL ROOM?
WELL AT LEAST I HAD AN HOUR.
THAT'S MORE THAN I'VE HAD FROM YOU AND YOUR RAPID RESPONSE UNIT IN OUR ENTIRE MARRIAGE.

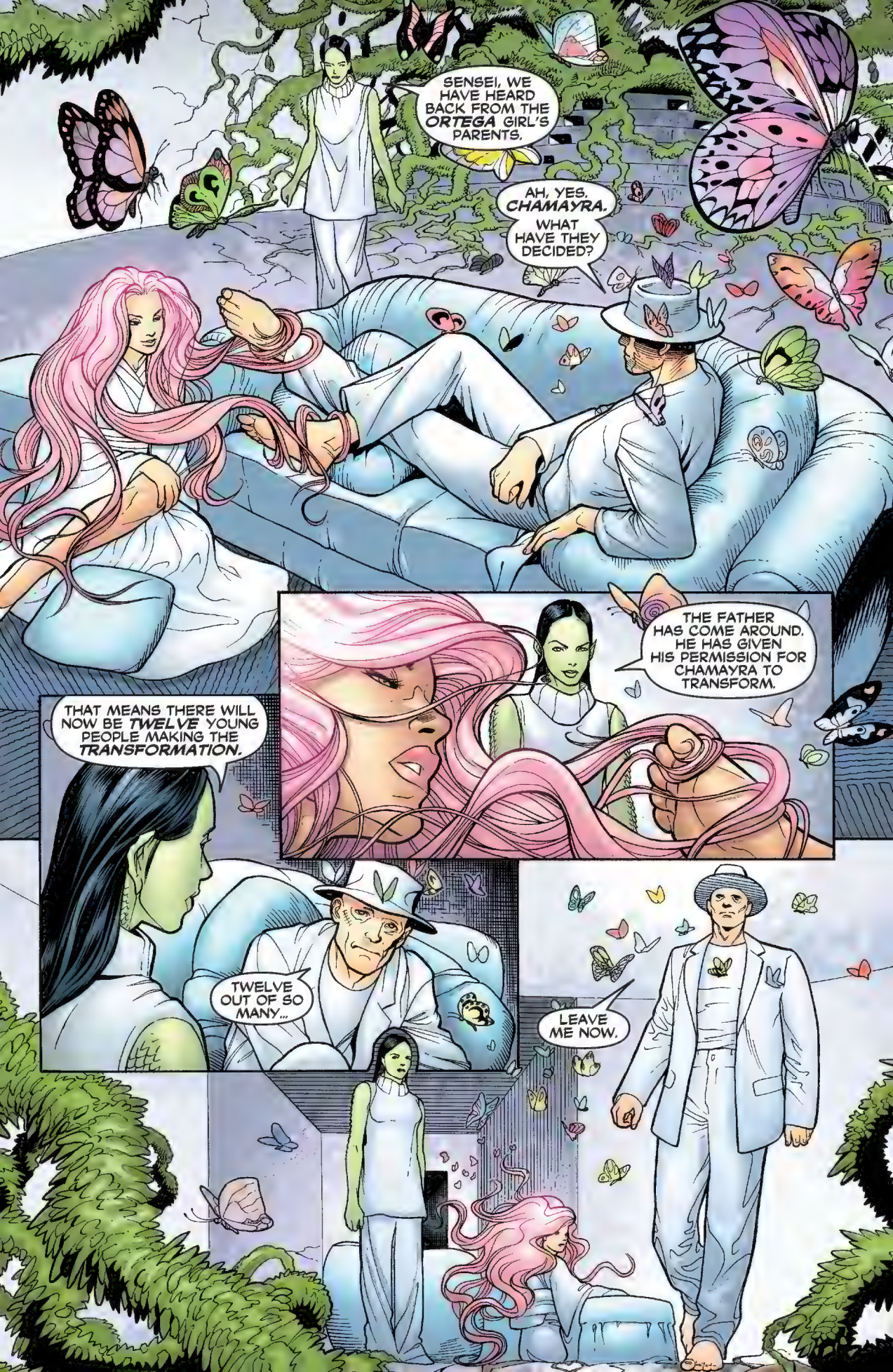

NNNNGGGG-
"NYAARRGH!
SMAK
PLEASE...
...JUST LET ME GO.
NRRGHH... NO ONE...
...NO ONE WALKS AWAY FROM ME!
ERIK, BRING HER DOWNSTAIRS. WE'RE GONNA TAKE A LITTLE DRIVE, SHOW MY WIFE A PART OF THE CITY THAT THEY DON'T FEATURE ON THE VISITORS' TOUR.

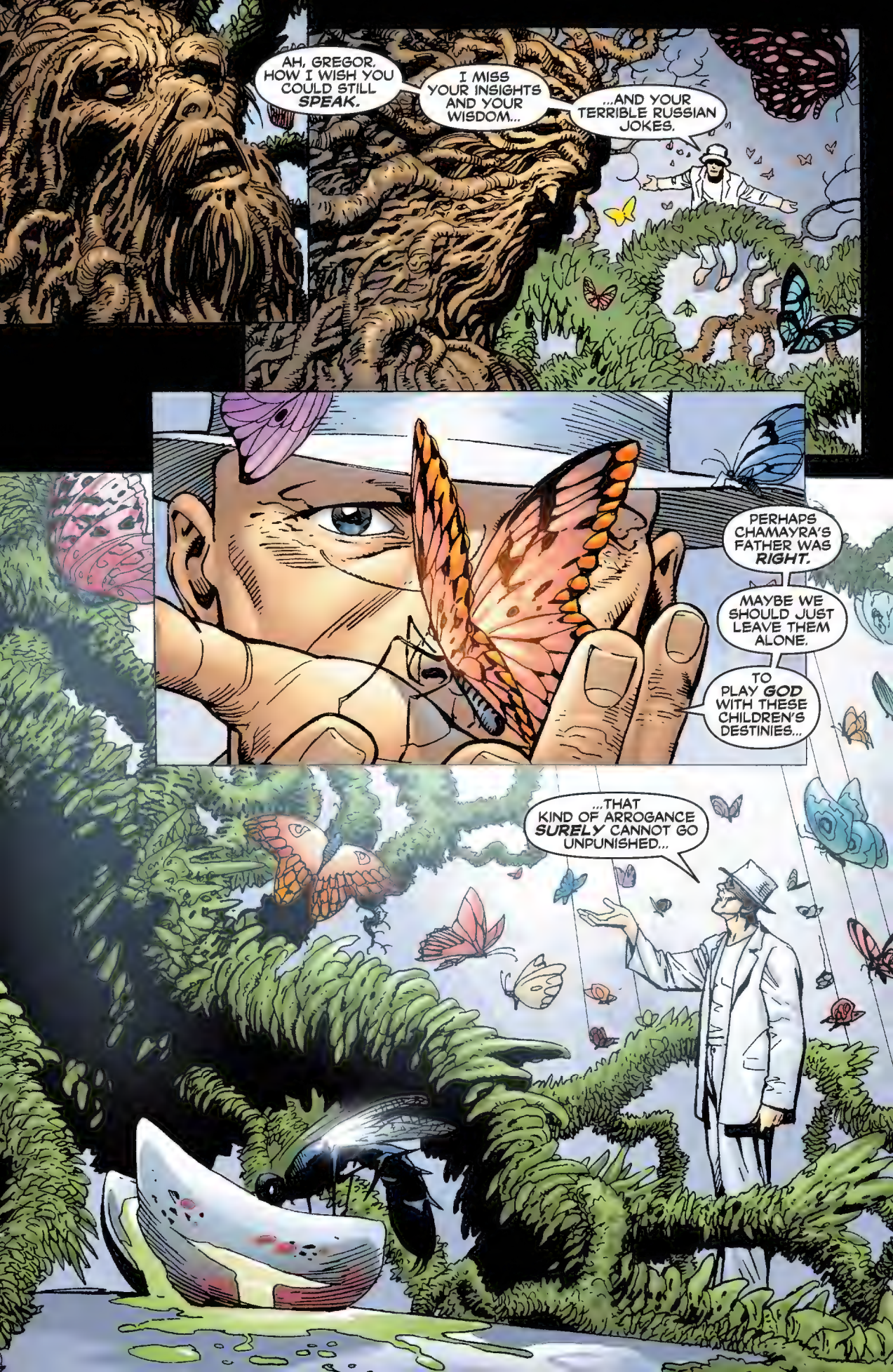

DON'T, ERIK.
DON'T YOU TOUCH ME!
LARA, YOUR ILLUSIONS DON'T IMPRESS EITHER OF US.
I'M SORRY, MRS. KAUFMAN.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
SOMEWHERE VERY SPECIAL...
"...A PLACE WHERE NIGHTMARES COME TRUE."

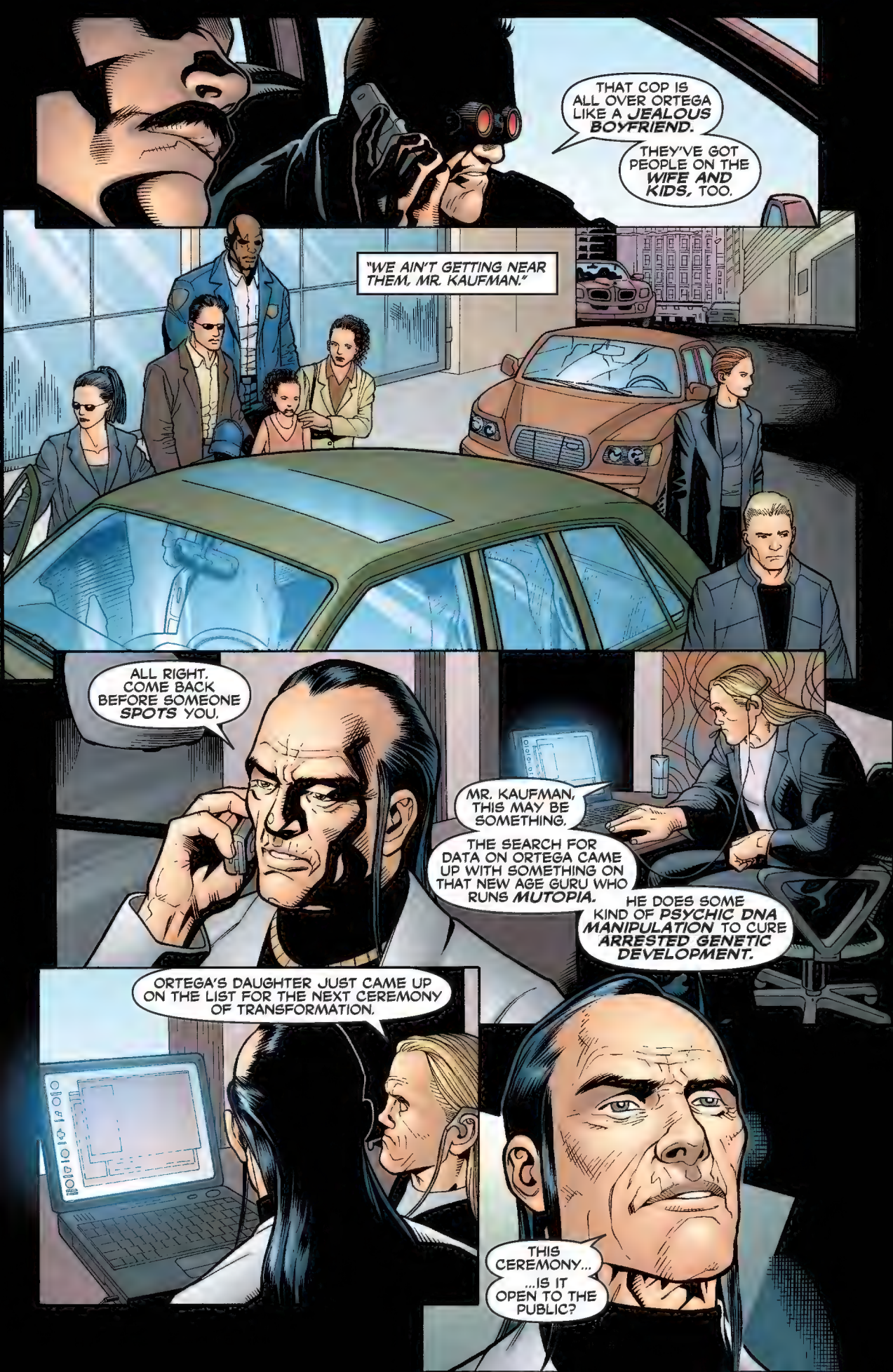
I'M SORRY. IT WAS JUST...
...IT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING.
IT WAS NOTHING.
NOTHING. IT'S ALWAYS NOTHING WITH YOU, ISN'T IT?
WHAT ABOUT ME?
WHY CAN'T I BE ENOUGH FOR YOU?
YOU ARE...I MEAN...IT-IT'S JUST THE JOB.
I HAVE A LOT OF PRESSURE ON ME RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?! YOUR WORK IS GETTING TO YOU, SO YOU TAKE SOME LOVER!?
I TOLD YOU, ISMAEL. IF THIS HAPPENED ONE MORE TIME, YOU'RE OUT OF HERE!
YOU CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.
WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?
HAVE YOU THOUGHT WHAT IT WOULD DO TO THEM IF YOU KICK ME OUT?
DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO BLACKMAIL ME, YOU SELFISH SON OF A--!
MOM!

MOM, YOU'D BETTER COME QUICK! ESTEBAN IS ACTING REAL FUNNY!
OH MY--
--ESTEBAN!

ESTEBAN, MOMMY'S HERE!
IT'S OKAY, BABY.
WERE YOU HAVING A BAD DREAM?
I--I HEARD YOU AND DADDY FIGHTING.
DAD, PLEASE DON'T LEAVE.
SOMETHING BAD IS GONNA HAPPEN IF YOU DO.
ALL RIGHT. YOU STAY.
BUT THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE, IZZY, AND YOU ONLY STAY UNDER ONE CONDITION...


SENSEI, WE HAVE HEARD BACK FROM THE ORTEGA GIRL'S PARENTS.
AH, YES, CHAMAYRA. WHAT HAVE THEY DECIDED?
THE FATHER HAS COME AROUND. HE HAS GIVEN HIS PERMISSION FOR CHAMAYRA TO TRANSFORM.
THAT MEANS THERE WILL NOW BE TWELVE YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING THE TRANSFORMATION.
TWELVE OUT OF SO MANY...
LEAVE ME NOW.

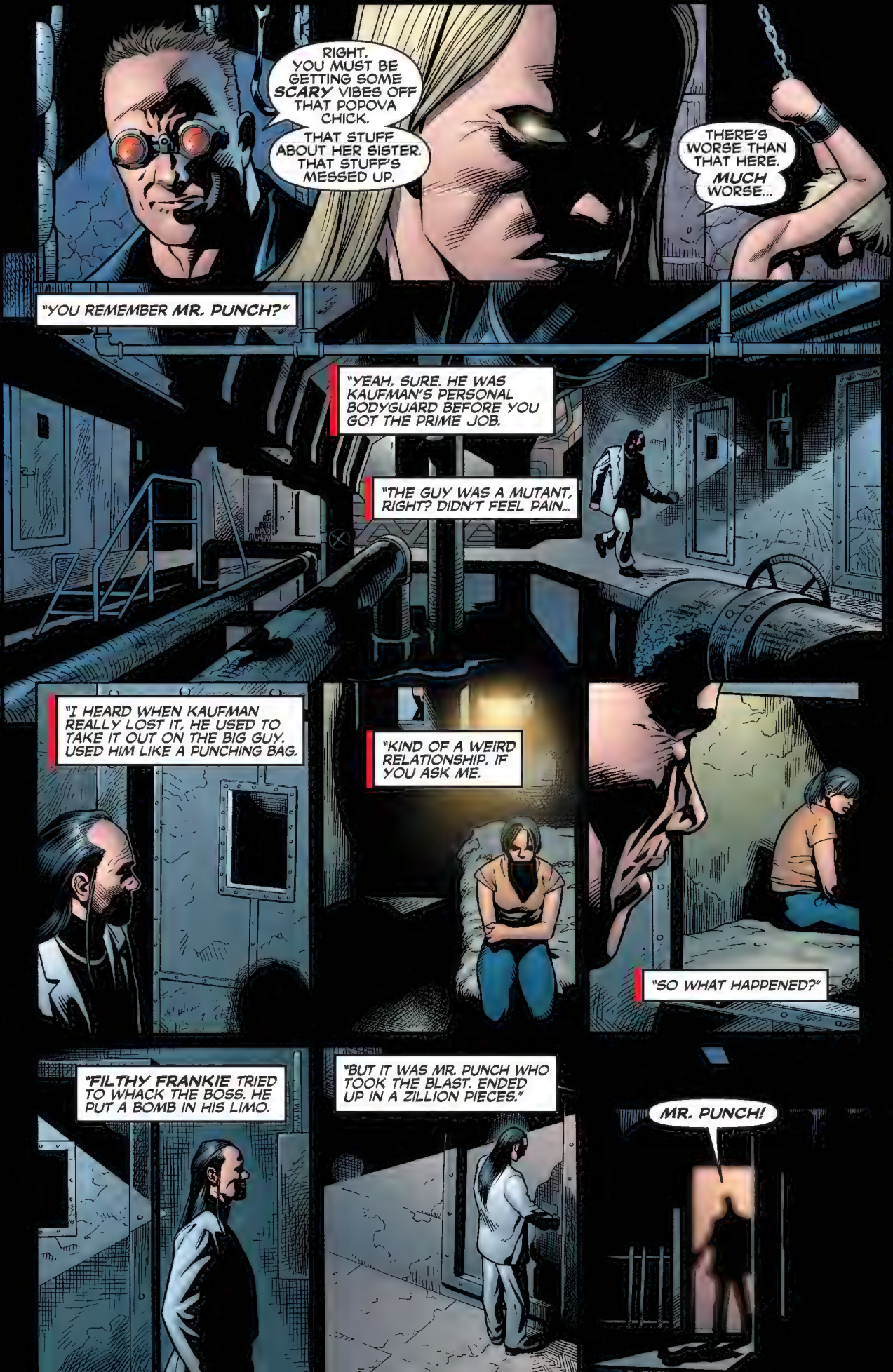

AH, GREGOR, HOW I WISH YOU COULD STILL SPEAK.
I MISS YOUR INSIGHTS AND YOUR WISDOM...
...AND YOUR TERRIBLE RUSSIAN JOKES.
PERHAPS CHAMAYRA'S FATHER WAS RIGHT.
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE.
TO PLAY GOD WITH THESE CHILDREN'S DESTINIES...
...THAT KIND OF ARROGANCE SURELY CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED...


THAT COP IS ALL OVER ORTEGA LIKE A JEALOUS BOYFRIEND.
THEY'VE GOT PEOPLE ON THE WIFE AND KIDS, TOO.
"WE AIN'T GETTING NEAR THEM, MR. KAUFMAN."
ALL RIGHT. COME BACK BEFORE SOMEONE SPOTS YOU.
MR. KAUFMAN, THIS MAY BE SOMETHING.
THE SEARCH FOR DATA ON ORTEGA CAME UP WITH SOMETHING ON THAT NEW AGE GURU WHO RUNS MUTOPIA.
HE DOES SOME KIND OF PSYCHIC DNA MANIPULATION TO CURE ARRESTED GENETIC DEVELOPMENT.
ORTEGA'S DAUGHTER JUST CAME UP ON THE LIST FOR THE NEXT CEREMONY OF TRANSFORMATION.
THIS CEREMONY...
...IS IT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

TELL ME, MS. POPOVA...
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE?
THE ONLY REASON I *HAVE* TO LIVE, IS TO *KILL* FILTH LIKE YOU.
DO YOU KNOW WHY SHE HATES MUTANTS SO MUCH, ERIK?
WHY IS THAT, MR. KAUFMAN?
BECAUSE HER SISTER HAD AN AFFAIR WITH A MUTANT.
DAMN.
THIS MUTANT THEN GOT HER SISTER *PREGNANT.*
VERY CARELESS.
AND THEN HE *ABANDONED* HER.
STILL, THAT HARDLY SEEMS LIKE A REASON TO SLAUGHTER MUTANTS WHOLESALE.

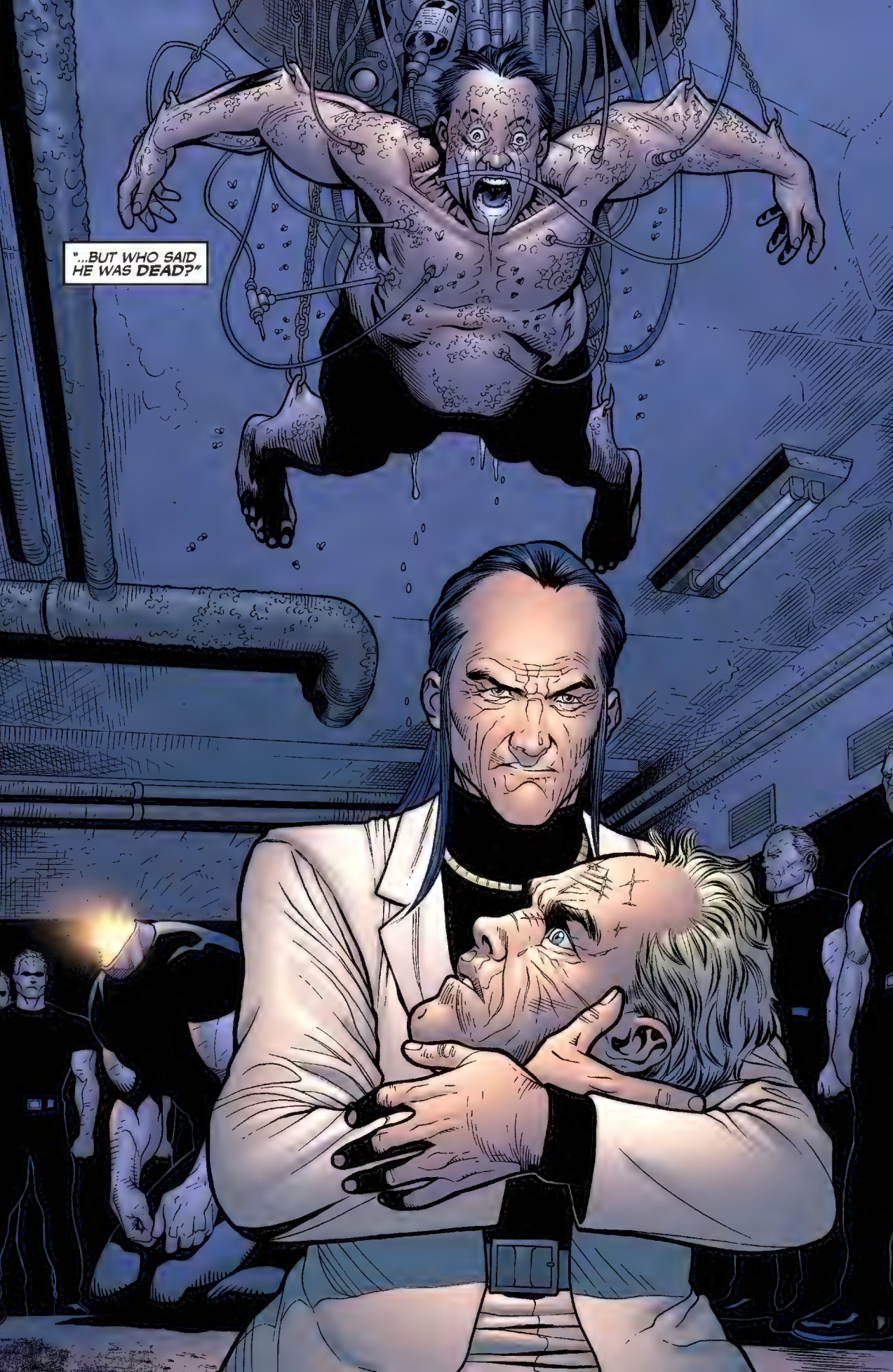
MY RESEARCHERS TELL ME YOU WERE THERE FOR THE BIRTH.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN *QUITE TRAUMATIC* FOR YOU.
THE LITTLE MONSTER COULDN'T WAIT TO BE BORN, COULD HE?
"THEY TELL ME HE *ATE* HIS WAY OUT."
THE CHILD *SURVIVED.*
HE WAS GIVEN A NEW IDENTITY AND WAS ADOPTED BY A MUTANT FAMILY.
APPARENTLY HE'S DOING VERY WELL. PLAYS BASEBALL FOR HIS TOWN'S LITTLE LEAGUE.
YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
I OWN HALF THE NEWS MEDIA IN THIS COUNTRY, MS. POPOVA. I KNOW *MOST THINGS.*
I COULD ALSO TELL YOU WHERE THE MISSING FATHER CAN BE FOUND, SHOULD YOU EVER WANT TO PLAN A *FAMILY REUNION.*

NOW, MY QUESTION...ONCE AGAIN...
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO *LIVE*?
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?
I'D LIKE YOU TO KILL SOMEONE FOR ME. A SAPIEN.
I KILL MUTANTS, NOT HUMANS.
I THINK YOU'LL MAKE AN *EXCEPTION* FOR THIS ONE.
YOU TWO WAIT HERE FOR ME. I MAY BE A WHILE.
MAN, THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
OH REALLY? THEN YOU SHOULD BE GLAD YOU'RE NOT PSYCHIC.

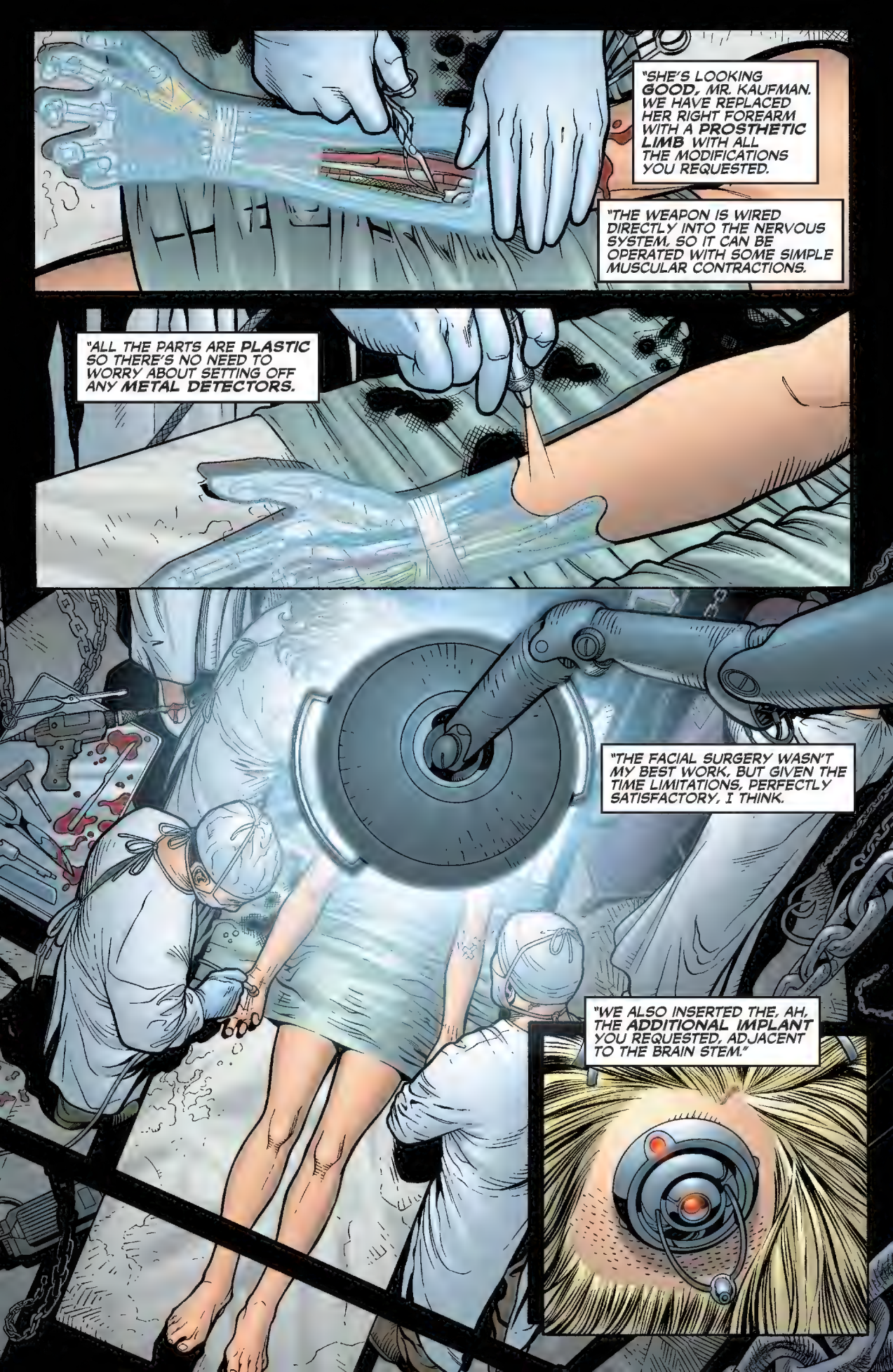

RIGHT. YOU MUST BE GETTING SOME SCARY VIBES OFF THAT POPOVA CHICK.
THAT STUFF ABOUT HER SISTER. THAT STUFF'S MESSED UP.
THERE'S WORSE THAN THAT HERE. MUCH WORSE...
"YOU REMEMBER MR. PUNCH?"
"YEAH, SURE. HE WAS KAUFMAN'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD BEFORE YOU GOT THE PRIME JOB.
"THE GUY WAS A MUTANT, RIGHT? DIDN'T FEEL PAIN...
"I HEARD WHEN KAUFMAN REALLY LOST IT, HE USED TO TAKE IT OUT ON THE BIG GUY. USED HIM LIKE A PUNCHING BAG.
"KIND OF A WEIRD RELATIONSHIP, IF YOU ASK ME.
"SO WHAT HAPPENED?"
"FILTHY FRANKIE TRIED TO WHACK THE BOSS. HE PUT A BOMB IN HIS LIMO.
"BUT IT WAS MR. PUNCH WHO TOOK THE BLAST. ENDED UP IN A ZILLION PIECES."
MR. PUNCH!

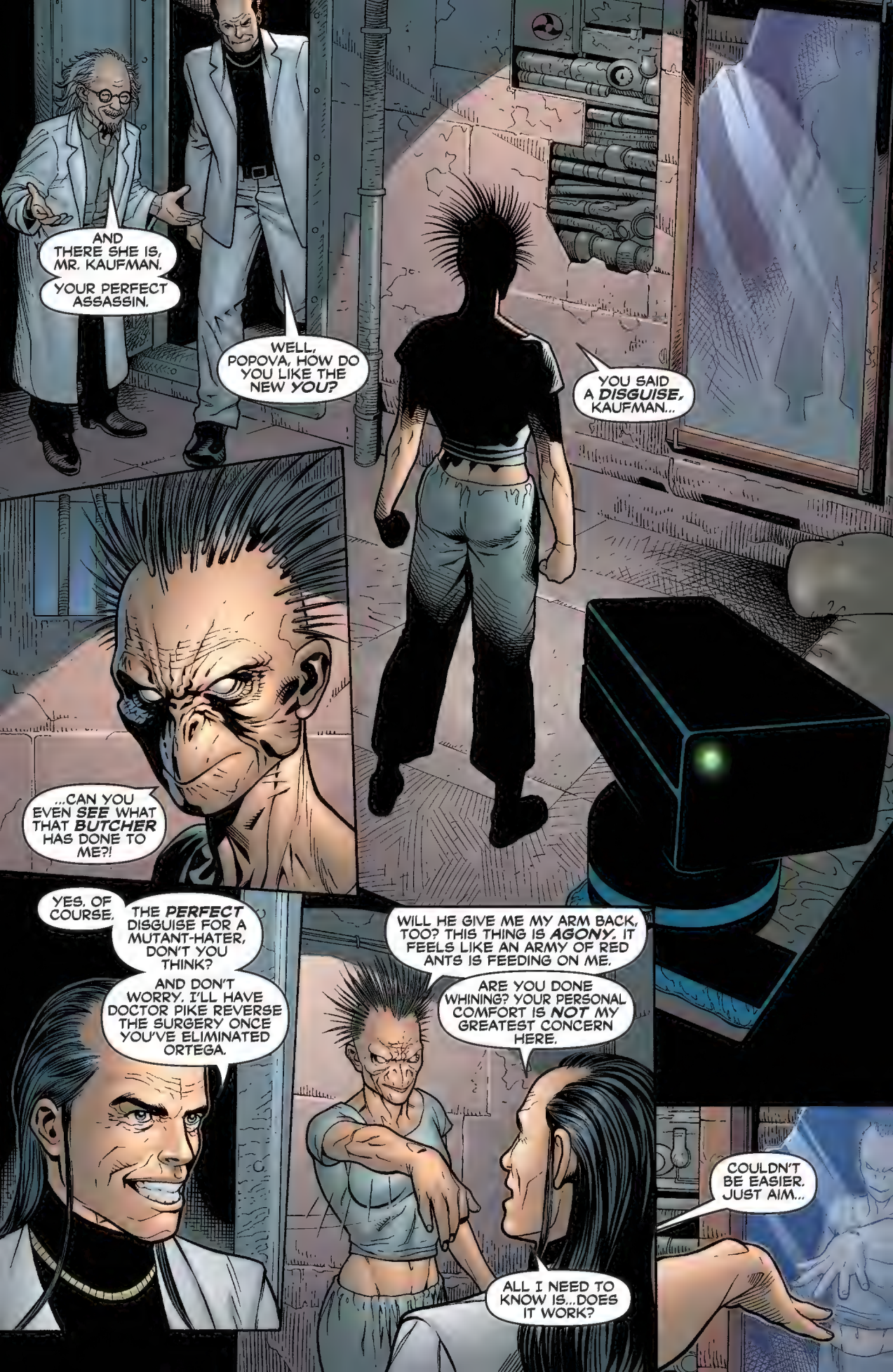
"GUESS KAUFMAN MUST MISS HIM..."
READY WHEN YOU ARE, MR. KAUFMAN.
"OH YEAH, HE MISSES HIM ALL RIGHT.
YAAAHH!
"MISSES HIM SO BAD HE WENT TO STARK INDUSTRIES...
UNNNGGHH!
"...PAID TONY STARK'S PEOPLE A FORTUNE TO REPLACE HIM."
NYAAARRRGH!

NyAAIEEE!
KRAK
"YOU'RE TELLING ME STARK BUILT HIM A CYBORG?"
"HE BUILT HIM AN ARMY. A WHOLE DAMN ARMY OF MR. PUNCHES!"
HUF! HUF!
"WELL, WHAT HAPPENED TO FILTHY FRANKIE? DIDN'T THIS PLACE USED TO BELONG TO HIM? I HEARD KAUFMAN TORTURED THE GUY TO DEATH RIGHT HERE ON HIS OWN TURF..."
"OH YEAH, MR. KAUFMAN GOT REAL CREATIVE WITH FRANKIE...RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE PUNCH CYBORGS, SO HE NEVER FORGOT WHY ALL THAT PAIN WAS HAPPENING TO HIM...
"...YEAH, FRANKIE ENDED UP HERE, ALL RIGHT..."

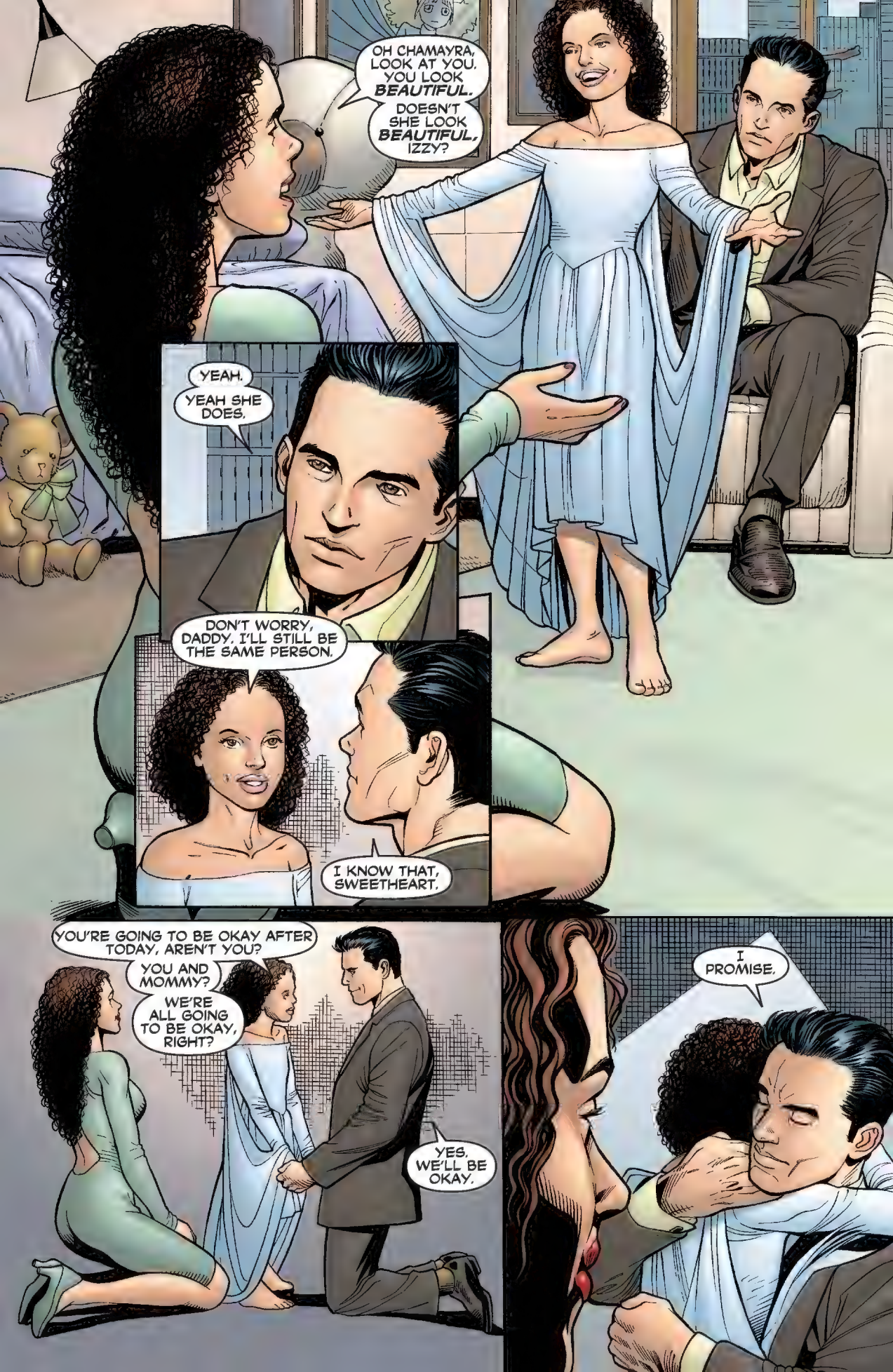

"...BUT WHO SAID HE WAS DEAD?"

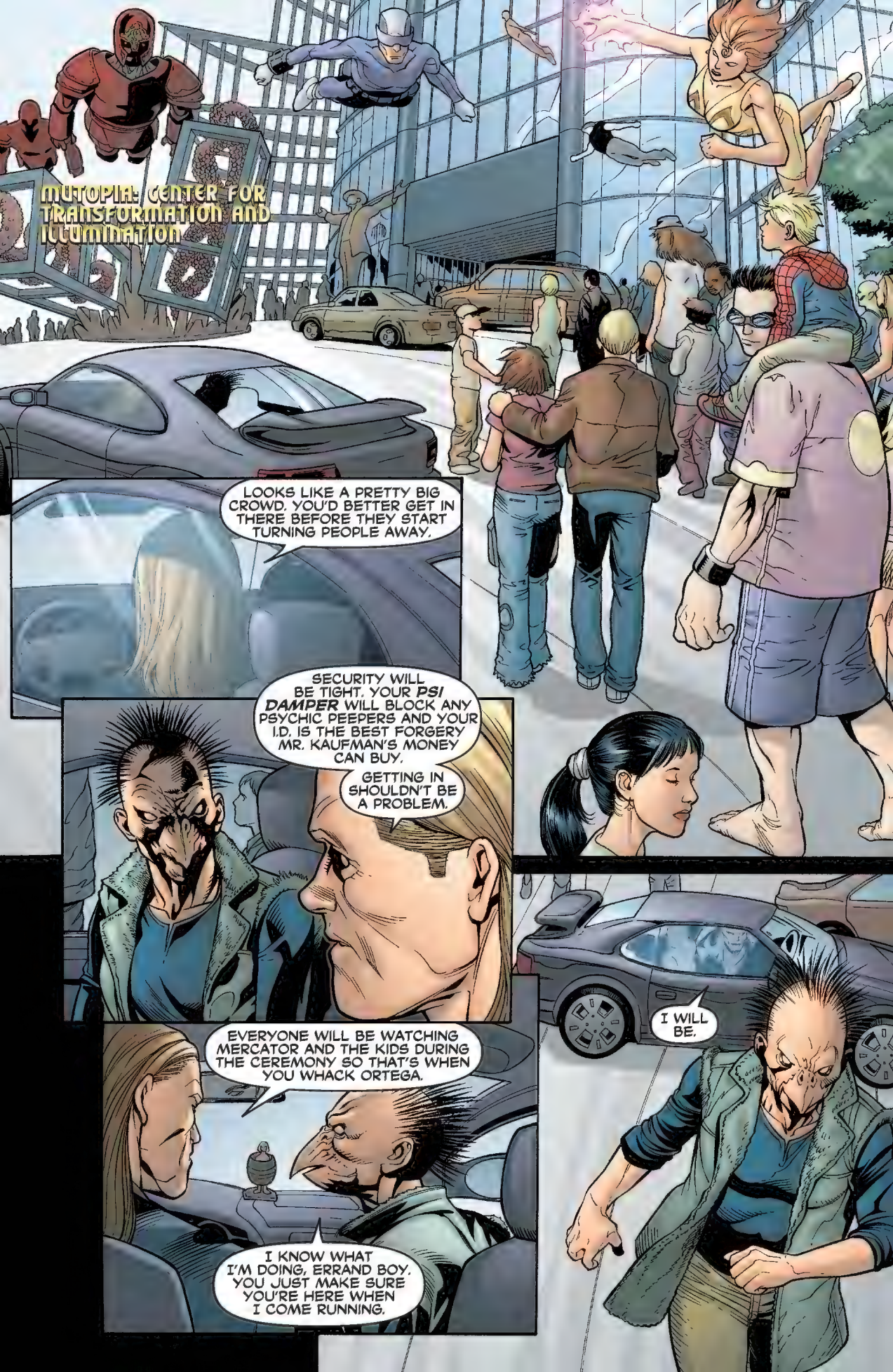
MUTOPIA X #4

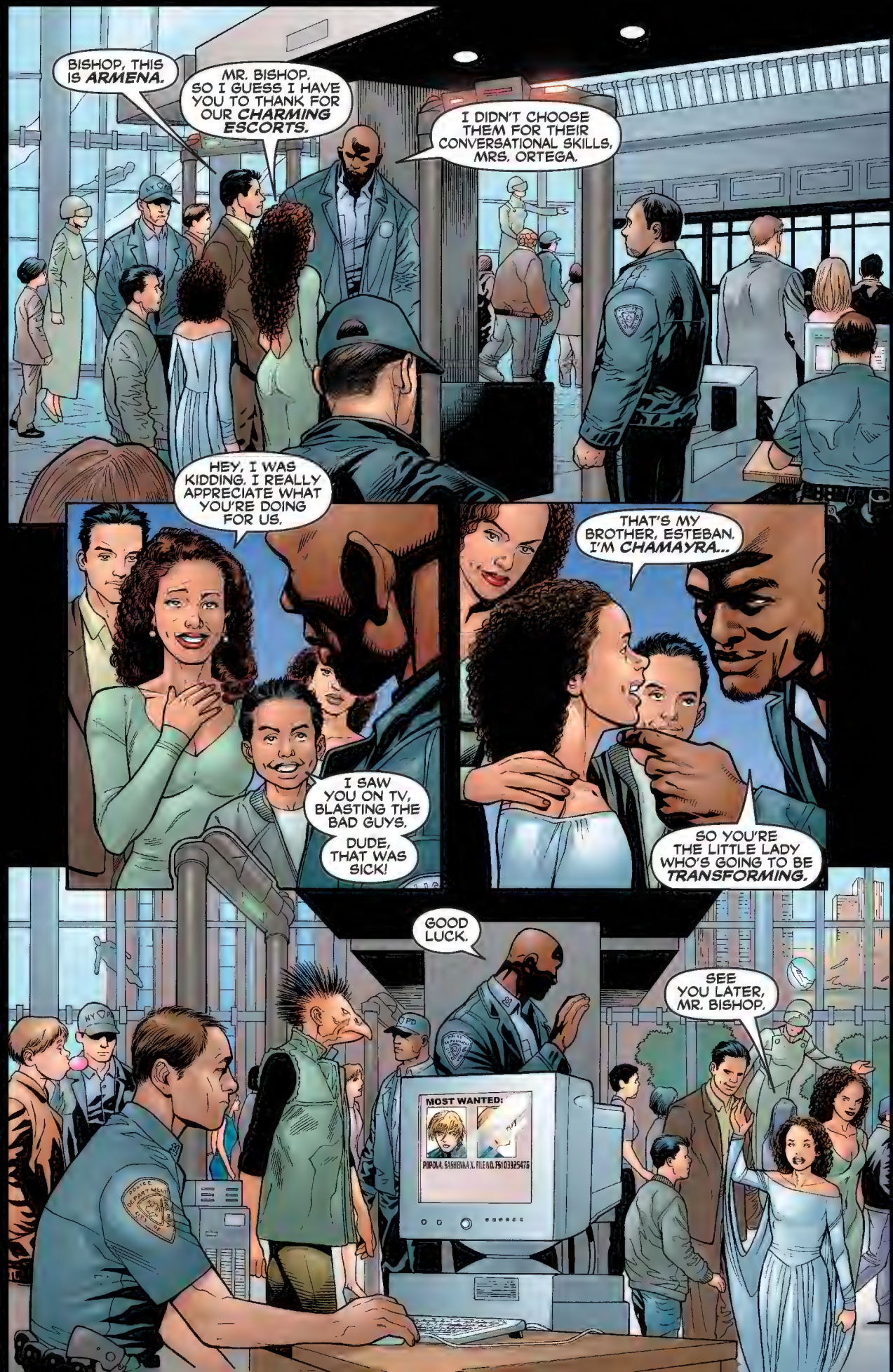

"SHE'S LOOKING GOOD, MR. KAUFMAN. WE HAVE REPLACED HER RIGHT FOREARM WITH A PROSTHETIC LIMB WITH ALL THE MODIFICATIONS YOU REQUESTED.
"THE WEAPON IS WIRED DIRECTLY INTO THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, SO IT CAN BE OPERATED WITH SOME SIMPLE MUSCULAR CONTRACTIONS.
"ALL THE PARTS ARE PLASTIC SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT SETTING OFF ANY METAL DETECTORS.
"THE FACIAL SURGERY WASN'T MY BEST WORK, BUT GIVEN THE TIME LIMITATIONS, PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY, I THINK.
"WE ALSO INSERTED THE, AH, THE ADDITIONAL IMPLANT YOU REQUESTED, ADJACENT TO THE BRAIN STEM."

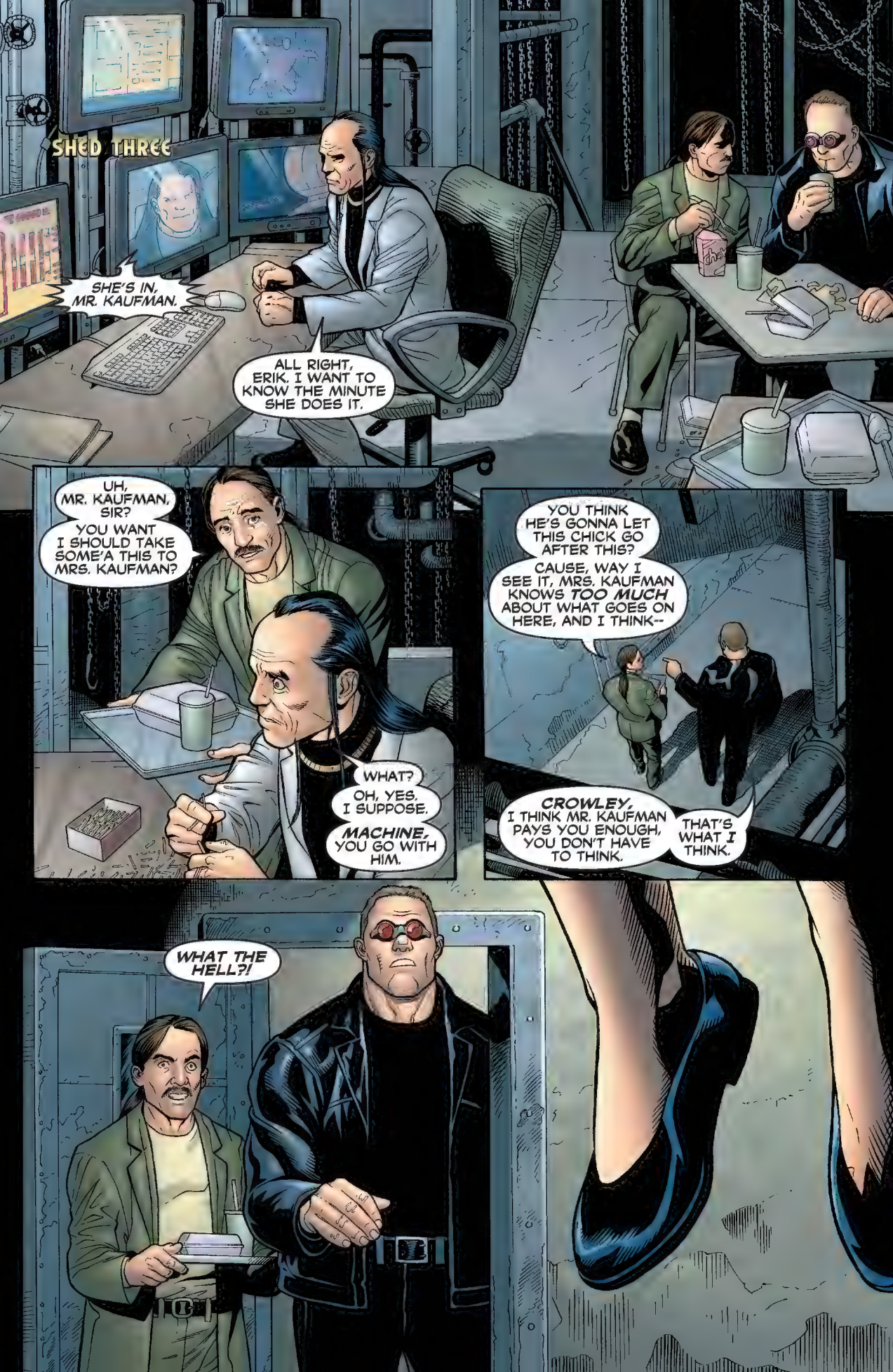

AND THERE SHE IS, MR. KAUFMAN.
YOUR PERFECT ASSASSIN.
WELL, POPOVA, HOW DO YOU LIKE THE NEW *YOU*?
YOU SAID A ***DISGUISE***, KAUFMAN...
...CAN YOU EVEN ***SEE*** WHAT THAT ***BUTCHER*** HAS DONE TO ME?!
YES, OF COURSE.
THE ***PERFECT*** DISGUISE FOR A MUTANT-HATER, DON'T YOU THINK?
AND DON'T WORRY, I'LL HAVE DOCTOR PIKE REVERSE THE SURGERY ONCE YOU'VE ELIMINATED ORTEGA.
WILL HE GIVE ME MY ARM BACK, TOO? THIS THING IS ***AGONY***. IT FEELS LIKE AN ARMY OF RED ANTS IS FEEDING ON ME.
ARE YOU DONE WHINING? YOUR PERSONAL COMFORT IS ***NOT*** MY GREATEST CONCERN HERE.
ALL I NEED TO KNOW IS...DOES IT WORK?
COULDN'T BE EASIER. JUST AIM...

THWIP
CRASH
...AND SQUEEZE!
OH YEAH, THAT WILL DO.
NOW GIVE A WAVE TO THE CAMERA, POPOVA.
ARE YOU GETTING THIS LARA? DO YOU SEE ALL THE TROUBLE I'M GOING TO FOR YOU?
TOMORROW ISMAEL ORTEGA IS GOING TO MUTOPIA TO SEE HIS DAUGHTER JOIN THE GREAT COMMUNITY OF MUTANT KIND. AND OUR MS. POPOVA HERE, IS GOING TO TAKE HIM OUT. RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS LOVING FAMILY.
IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, IT WILL BE A QUICK DEATH. SLOW AND PUH--PAINFUL WOULD BE MY PREFERENCE, BUT I'M NOT TAKING ANY CH--CHANCES.
THE BUH--BULLETS ARE TIPPED WITH A FAST-ACTING POISON. ONE SCRATCH AND HE'S--NNGGG--HUH--HISTORY!
THIS TIME TOMORROW ISMAEL ORTEGA WILL BE--NNNGG--NO MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED POUNDS OF TUH--TOXIC WUH--WASTE!


OH CHAMAYRA, LOOK AT YOU. YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL.
DOESN'T SHE LOOK BEAUTIFUL, IZZY?
YEAH.
YEAH SHE DOES.
DON'T WORRY, DADDY. I'LL STILL BE THE SAME PERSON.
I KNOW THAT, SWEETHEART.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY AFTER TODAY, AREN'T YOU?
YOU AND MOMMY?
WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE OKAY, RIGHT?
YES, WE'LL BE OKAY.
I PROMISE.


MUTOPIA: CENTER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND ILLUMINATION
LOOKS LIKE A PRETTY BIG CROWD. YOU'D BETTER GET IN THERE BEFORE THEY START TURNING PEOPLE AWAY.
SECURITY WILL BE TIGHT. YOUR PSI DAMPER WILL BLOCK ANY PSYCHIC PEEPERS AND YOUR I.D. IS THE BEST FORGERY MR. KAUFMAN'S MONEY CAN BUY.
GETTING IN SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
I WILL BE.
EVERYONE WILL BE WATCHING MERCATOR AND THE KIDS DURING THE CEREMONY SO THAT'S WHEN YOU WHACK ORTEGA.
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, ERRAND BOY. YOU JUST MAKE SURE YOU'RE HERE WHEN I COME RUNNING.

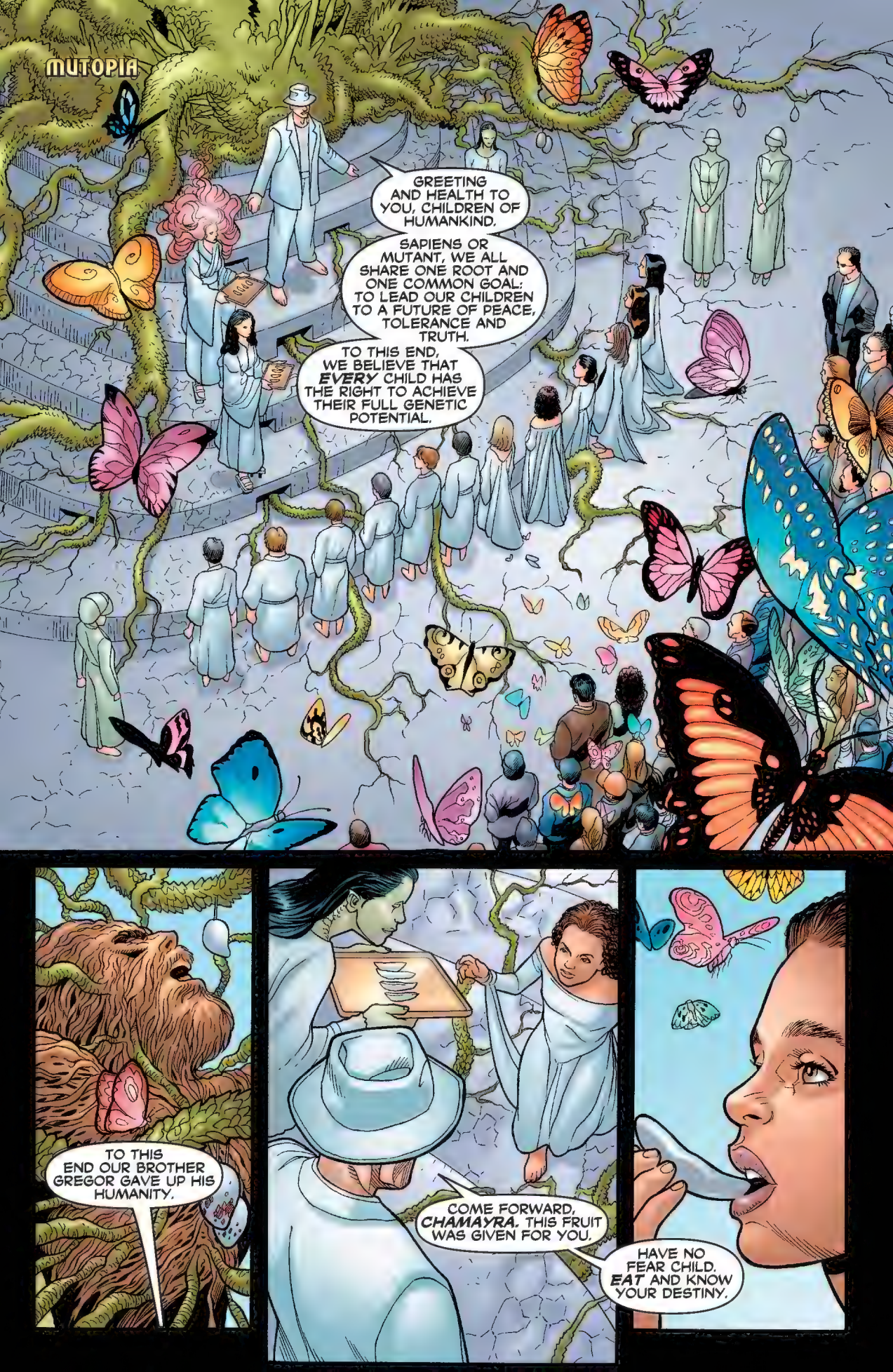

BISHOP, THIS IS ARMENA.
MR. BISHOP, SO I GUESS I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR OUR CHARMING ESCORTS.
I DIDN'T CHOOSE THEM FOR THEIR CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS, MRS. ORTEGA.
HEY, I WAS KIDDING. I REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE DOING FOR US.
I SAW YOU ON TV, BLASTING THE BAD GUYS.
DUDE, THAT WAS SICK!
THAT'S MY BROTHER, ESTEBAN. I'M CHAMAYRA...
SO YOU'RE THE LITTLE LADY WHO'S GOING TO BE TRANSFORMING.
GOOD LUCK.
SEE YOU LATER, MR. BISHOP.
MOST WANTED:
POPOVA, SASHENKA X. FILE NO. P5103925476

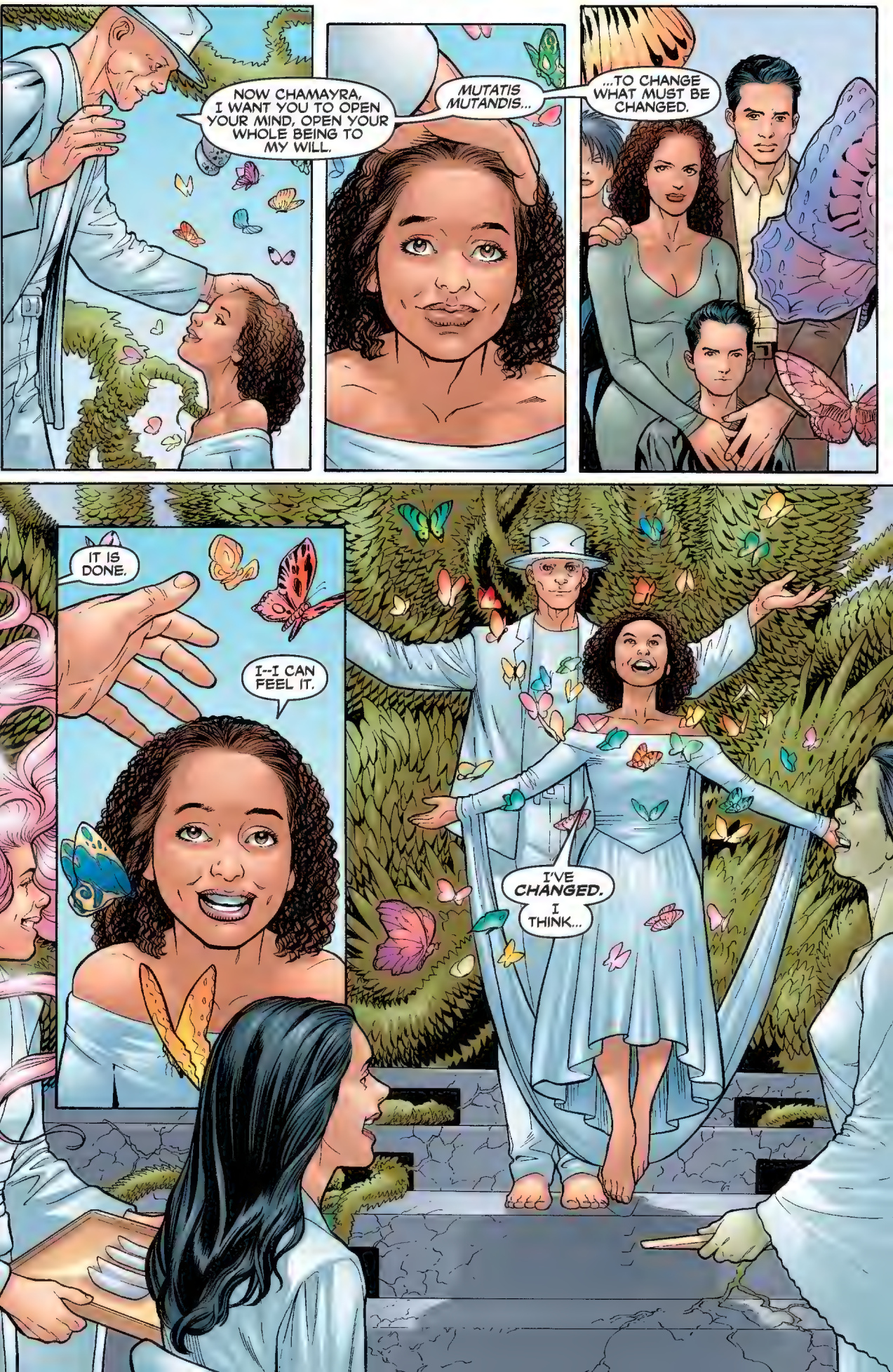

SHED THREE
SHE'S IN, MR. KAUFMAN.
ALL RIGHT, ERIK. I WANT TO KNOW THE MINUTE SHE DOES IT.
UH, MR. KAUFMAN, SIR? YOU WANT I SHOULD TAKE SOME'A THIS TO MRS. KAUFMAN?
WHAT? OH, YES. I SUPPOSE. MACHINE, YOU GO WITH HIM.
YOU THINK HE'S GONNA LET THIS CHICK GO AFTER THIS? CAUSE, WAY I SEE IT, MRS. KAUFMAN KNOWS TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT GOES ON HERE, AND I THINK--
CROWLEY, I THINK MR. KAUFMAN PAYS YOU ENOUGH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK.
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
WHAT THE HELL?!

HOLD ON, HOLD ON! LET'S NOT FREAK OUT HERE, CROWLEY! THAT'S NOT LARA! THAT'S GOT TO BE ONE OF HER ILLUSIONS!
SEE THAT, IT'S DISAPPEARING ALREADY.
HA! RIGHT, LARA THE ILLUSIONIST.
OKAY, SO WHERE--
--OH DAMN!
NAH! NO WAY SHE COULD HAVE A GUN IN HERE.
THE GUN IS ANOTHER ILLUSION!
THAT WAS VERY NEAT MRS. KAUFMAN. HAD ME FOOLED THERE FOR A MINUTE.
NOW WOULD YOU PLEASE PICK UP YOUR LUNCH AND EAT IT BEFORE IT GETS COLD.

OH, MAN, THIS IS MESSED UP!
IS THAT THE REAL ONE?
URRK--!
AKKK--!
WHY DON'T YOU ASK MACHINE, HERE.
DOES THAT FEEL REAL, TOUGH GUY?
YAAAAH!
NUH-- NUHH...
PUT THE GUN DOWN. DON'T MAKE ME SHOOT YOU.

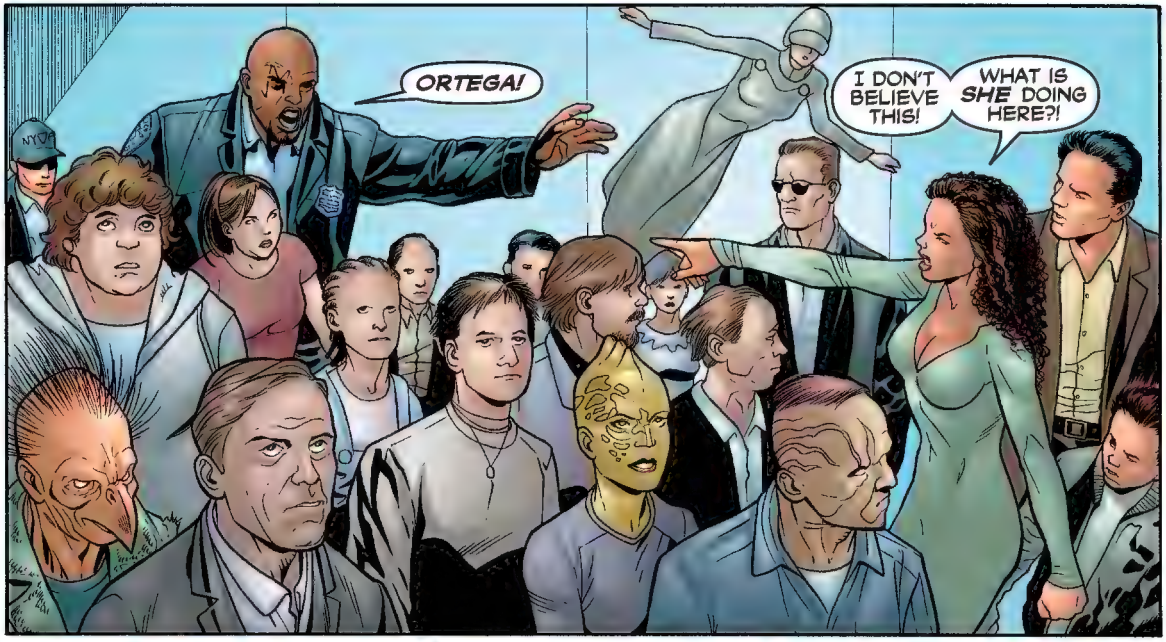
YEAH, RIGHT. FOOL ME ONCE, SHAME ON YOU...
NO, YOU IDIOT! SHE TOOK MY--
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
HNNGGH...
...H--HELP... UHNNN... M--ME...

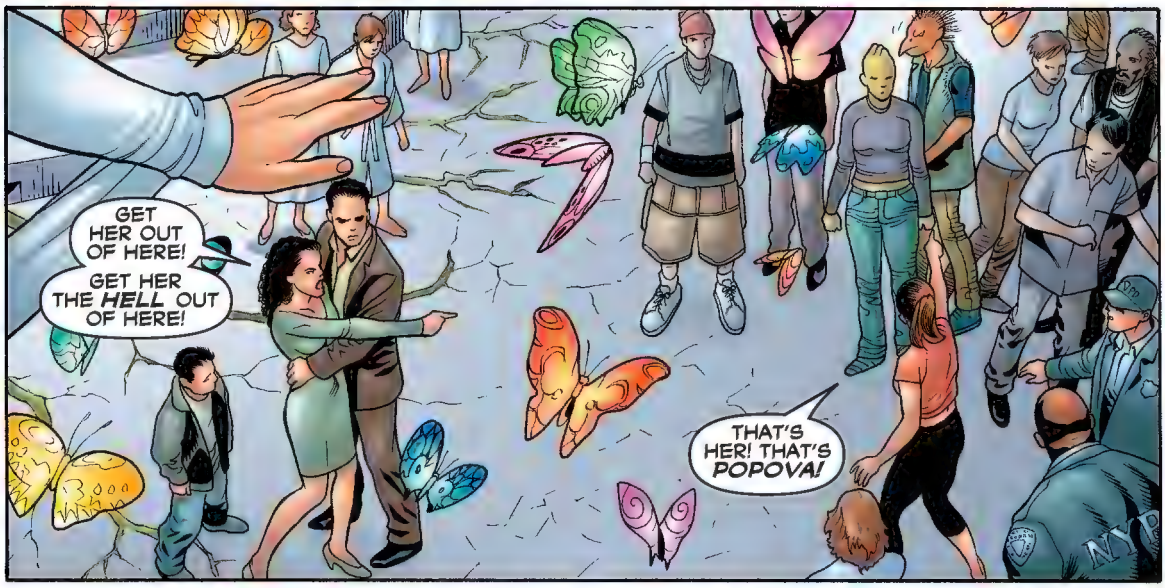

MUTOPIA
GREETING AND HEALTH TO YOU, CHILDREN OF HUMANKIND.
SAPIENS OR MUTANT, WE ALL SHARE ONE ROOT AND ONE COMMON GOAL: TO LEAD OUR CHILDREN TO A FUTURE OF PEACE, TOLERANCE AND TRUTH.
TO THIS END, WE BELIEVE THAT *EVERY* CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL GENETIC POTENTIAL.
TO THIS END OUR BROTHER GREGOR GAVE UP HIS HUMANITY.
COME FORWARD, *CHAMAYRA*. THIS FRUIT WAS GIVEN FOR YOU.
HAVE NO FEAR CHILD. *EAT* AND KNOW YOUR DESTINY.


NOW CHAMAYRA, I WANT YOU TO OPEN YOUR MIND, OPEN YOUR WHOLE BEING TO MY WILL.
MUTATIS MUTANDIS...
...TO CHANGE WHAT MUST BE CHANGED.
IT IS DONE.
I--I CAN FEEL IT.
I'VE CHANGED. I THINK...

...I CAN FLY.

OH NO.
WHERE DID SHE--?
LARA KAUFMAN?
I CAN'T LET YOU IN HERE.
YOU HAVE TO! SHE'S HERE!
THE TERRORIST! POPOVA!
SHE'S HERE!
I DON'T THINK SO. WE SCREENED EVERY--
SHE'S DISGUISED. SHE HAS A PSI BLOCKER AND SHE'S ARMED.
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?
MY HUSBAND SENT HER.
RIGHT.
JIMI--!
--WITH ME!


ORTEGA!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?!

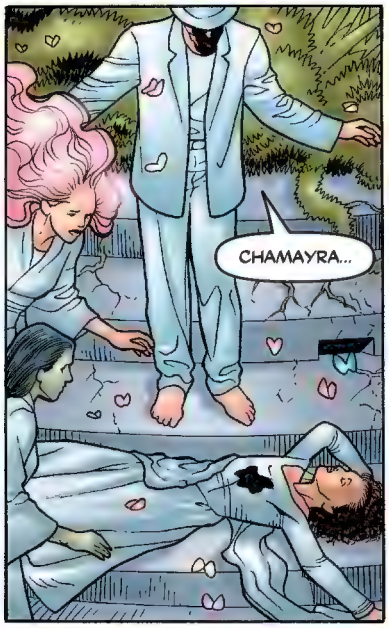

GET HER OUT OF HERE!
GET HER THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
THAT'S HER! THAT'S POPOVA!

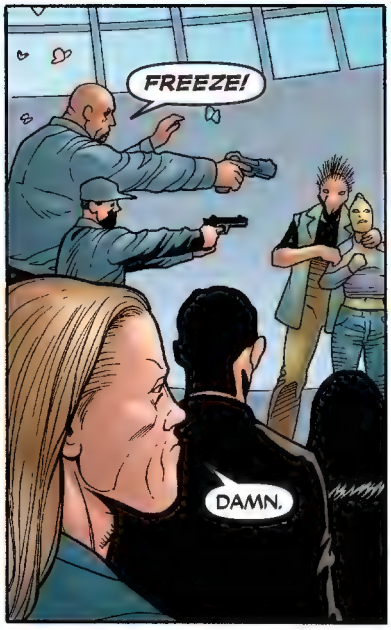
IN HER ARM. THAT'S THE WEAPON!

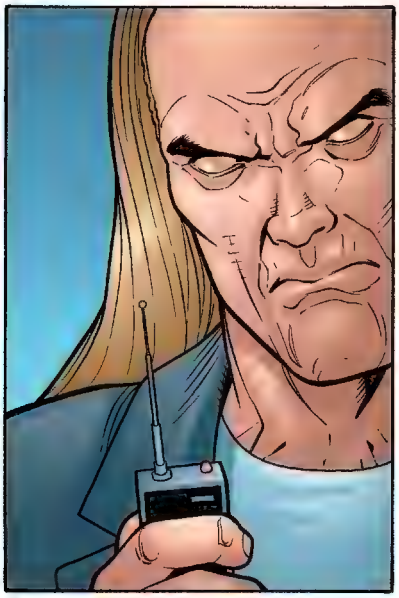
JIMI! THROW A SHIELD AROUND THE ORTEGAS!
NOW!
ESTEBAN! NO!
YOU LEAVE MY DAD ALONE!

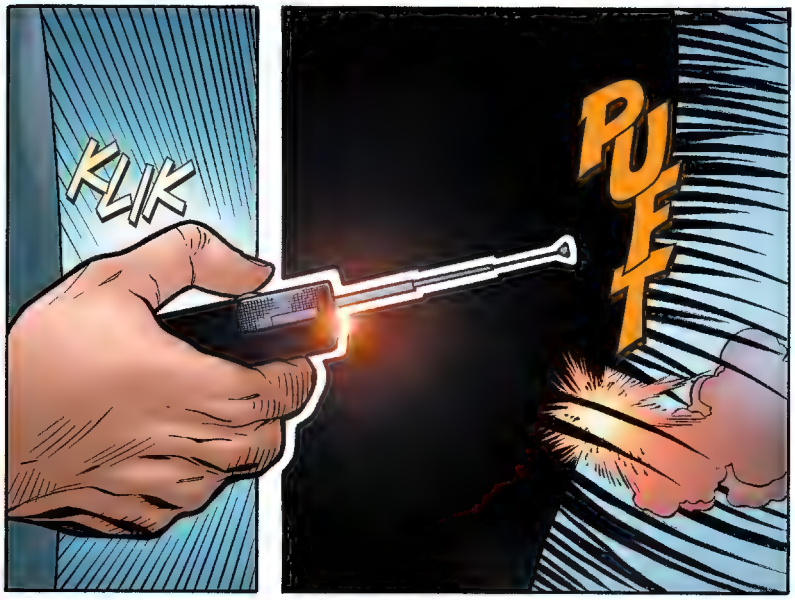
TWIP

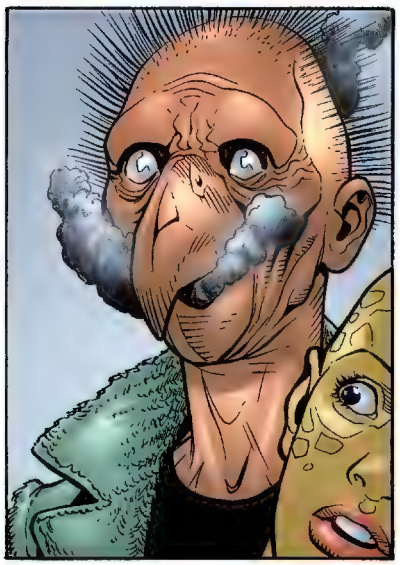
OH GOD...

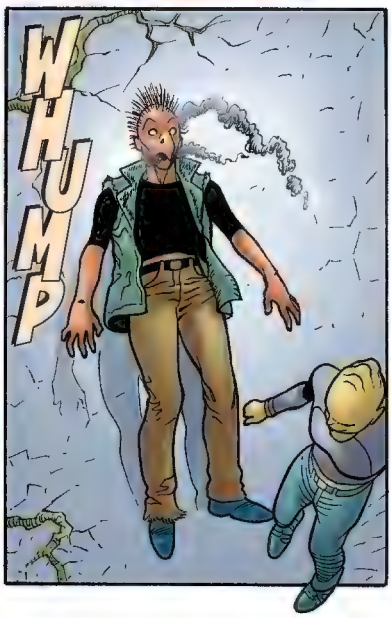

CHAMAYRA...

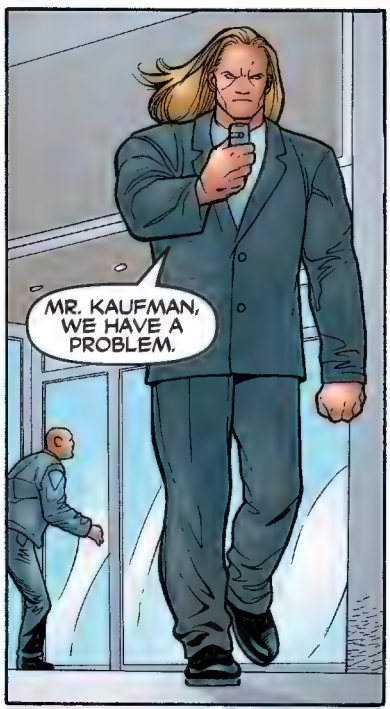

FREEZE!
DAMN.

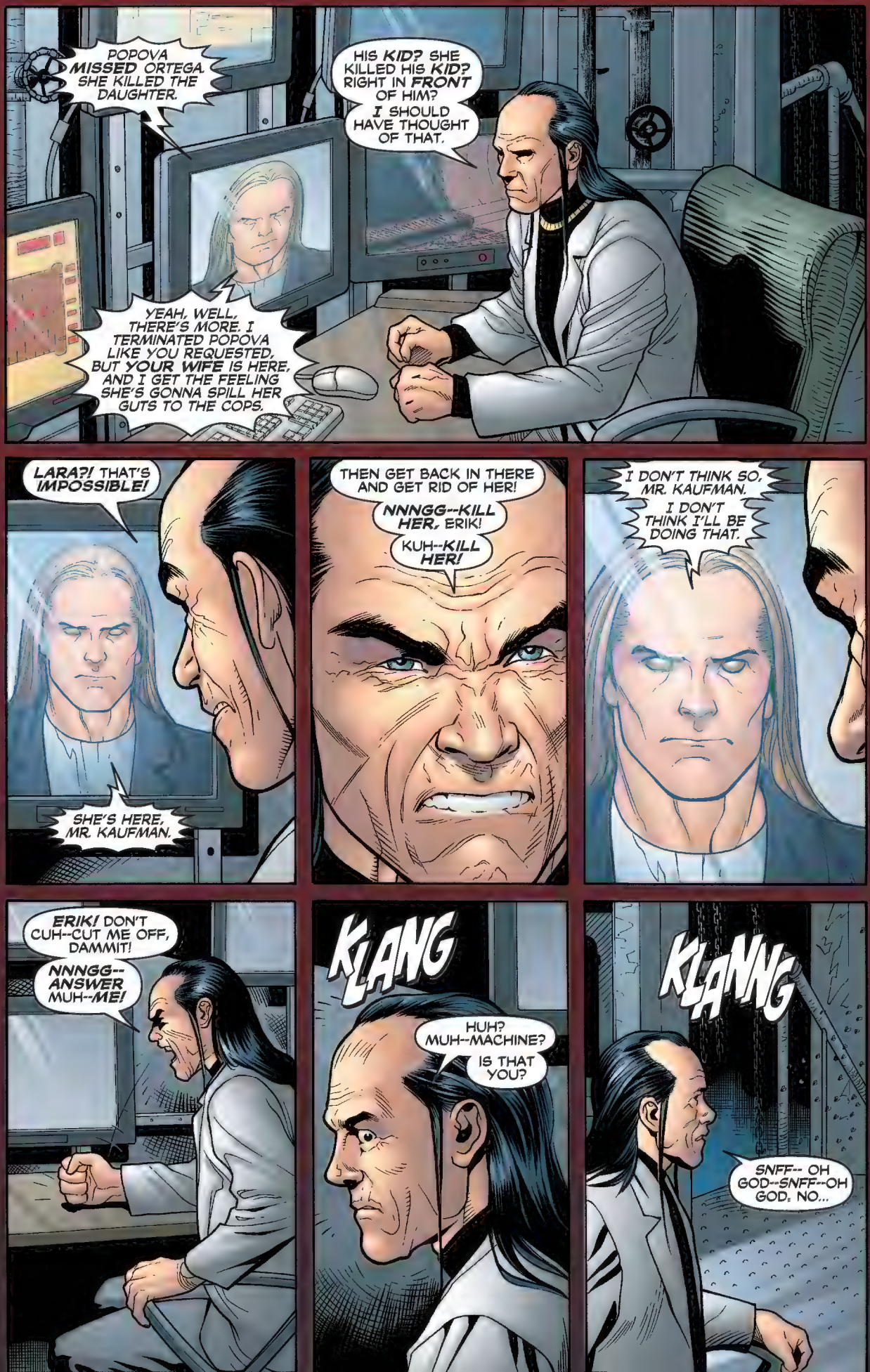



KLIK
PUFT



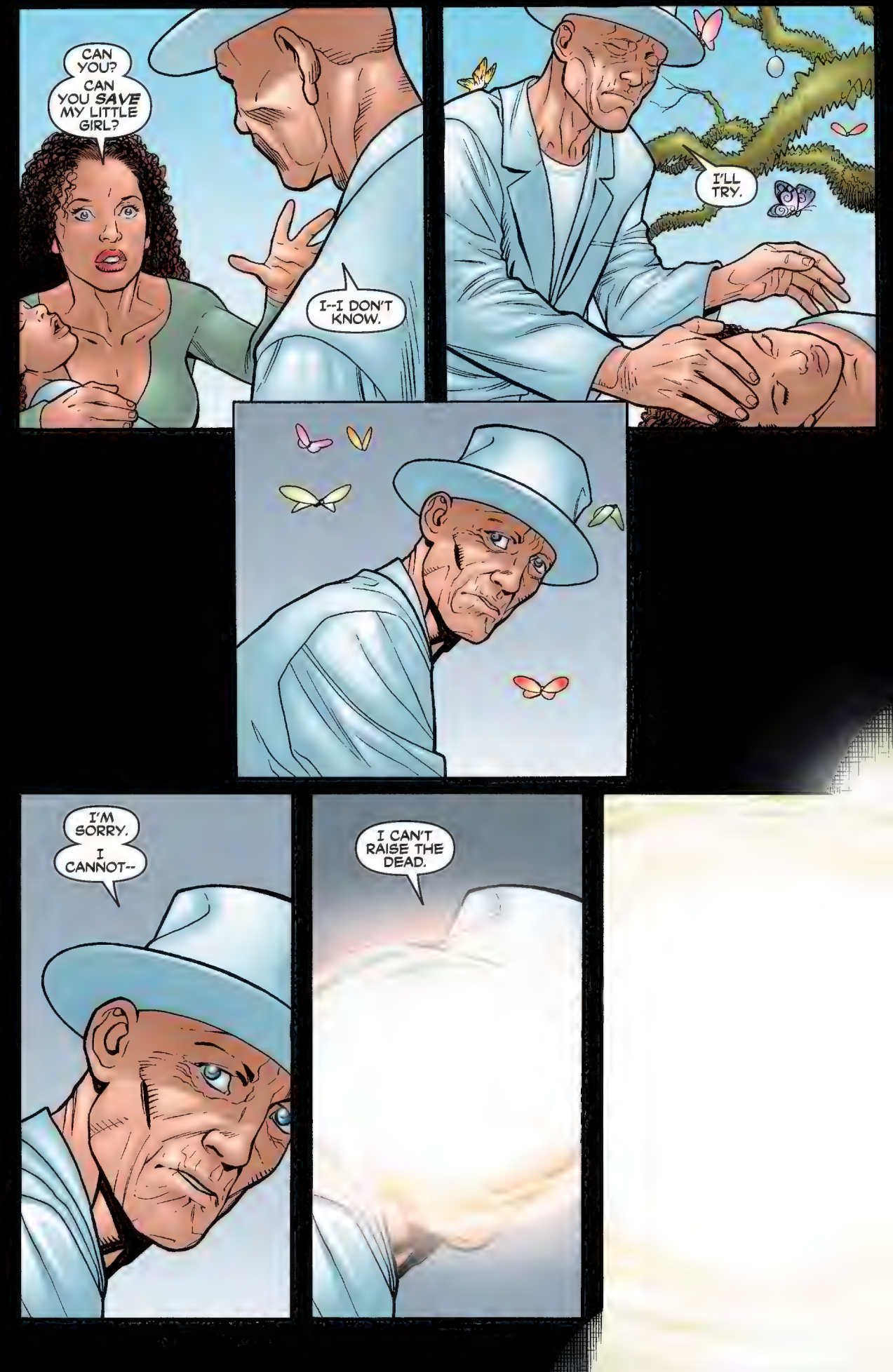

WHUMP


MR. KAUFMAN, WE HAVE A PROBLEM.


POPOVA MISSED ORTEGA. SHE KILLED THE DAUGHTER.
HIS KID? SHE KILLED HIS KID? RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM? I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT.
YEAH, WELL, THERE'S MORE. I TERMINATED POPOVA LIKE YOU REQUESTED, BUT YOUR WIFE IS HERE, AND I GET THE FEELING SHE'S GONNA SPILL HER GUTS TO THE COPS.
LARA?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
SHE'S HERE, MR. KAUFMAN.
THEN GET BACK IN THERE AND GET RID OF HER!
NNNGG--KILL HER, ERIK!
KUH--KILL HER!
I DON'T THINK SO, MR. KAUFMAN.
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE DOING THAT.
ERIK! DON'T CUH--CUT ME OFF, DAMMIT!
NNNGG--ANSWER MUH--ME!
KLANG
HUH? MUH--MACHINE? IS THAT YOU?
KLANNG
SNFF-- OH GOD--SNFF--OH GOD, NO...

YOUR WIFE SAID TO SAY GOODBYE.
FRANKIE--!
NUH--NO! NO!!
GOODBYE, SHAKY.

I'M SORRY, ORTEGA.
NONONONO...
PLEASE BABY, PLEASE...
...DON'T YOU DO THIS! DON'T YOU DIE!
THIS...HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.
YOU CAN SAVE HER!


CAN YOU?
CAN YOU SAVE MY LITTLE GIRL?
I--I DON'T KNOW.
I'LL TRY.
I'M SORRY.
I CANNOT--
I CAN'T RAISE THE DEAD.

OH MY--
BRRRPP
ARMENA?
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
CHAMAYRA? OH NO...
OH GOD, NO.

MUTOPIA X #5

"SIX MONTHS AGO, I MADE A MISTAKE. THE WORST MISTAKE A COP CAN MAKE.
"ESTEBAN KNEW HE SHOULDN'T TOUCH IT. I'VE TOLD HIM A THOUSAND TIMES.
"BUT HE'S A BOY. THAT'S HOW IT IS WITH BOYS AND GUNS.
"CHAMAYRA SHOULD HAVE DIED THAT DAY.
"SHE DIDN'T DIE.
"ABSOLON MERCATOR TOOK THE BULLET OUT OF HER.
"HE HEALED HER.
"HE GAVE US BACK OUR DAUGHTER.
"BUT SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG WITH THE WORLD..."

"...AND NOW IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER AGAIN."
BLOOD PRESSURE IS STABILIZED, BUT THE X-RAYS SHOW SEVERE TRAUMA TO THE STOMACH AND LUNGS.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A FULL CT SCAN.
PREP A THEATRE FOR IMMEDIATE SURGERY!
OKAY, LITTLE LADY, LET'S SEE WHAT'S GONE WRONG HERE.
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME?!

WE STOPPED THE INTERNAL BLEEDING AND YOUR DAUGHTER IS DOING AS WELL AS WE WOULD EXPECT--
PLEASE, JUST...
... WOULD YOU PLEASE PUT THE CLIPBOARD DOWN AND TELL ME WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY DAUGHTER?
TRUTHFULLY, MRS. ORTEGA, WE DON'T KNOW.
LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO ALARM YOU NEEDLESSLY...
JUST TELL ME!
ALL RIGHT, I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, AND THIS IS NOT MY OFFICIAL DIAGNOSIS, BUT SHE HAS ALL THE SYMPTOMS OF GUNSHOT TRAUMA.
GUNSHOT?!
BUT THERE IS NO SIGN OF AN ENTRY OR EXIT WOUND, AND THE X-RAYS HAVE PICKED UP NO FOREIGN OBJECTS, NO DEBRIS.
IT'S AS IF SHE WAS SHOT WITH AN INVISIBLE BULLET.

I HAVE TO GO, GREGOR.
MY DAUGHTER IS IN THE HOSPITAL.
SOMETHING HAPPENED.
SOMETHING HAPPENED...
MERCATOR.
I HAVE TO FIND MERCATOR!
WHAT--?

HEY, OFFICER ORTEGA!

WHAT THE *HELL* IS GOING ON?

HEY MAN, LOOK AT ME!

DO I KNOW YOU?

YEAH, YEAH, I WAS IN THE TUNNELS WITH MELEK.

I'M *BUGMAN!*

YOU REMEMBER? I WAS GREEN, WITH ANTENNAE AND THE TEETH...

NOW LOOK AT ME!

I LOOK LIKE A FREAKIN' MOVIE STAR.

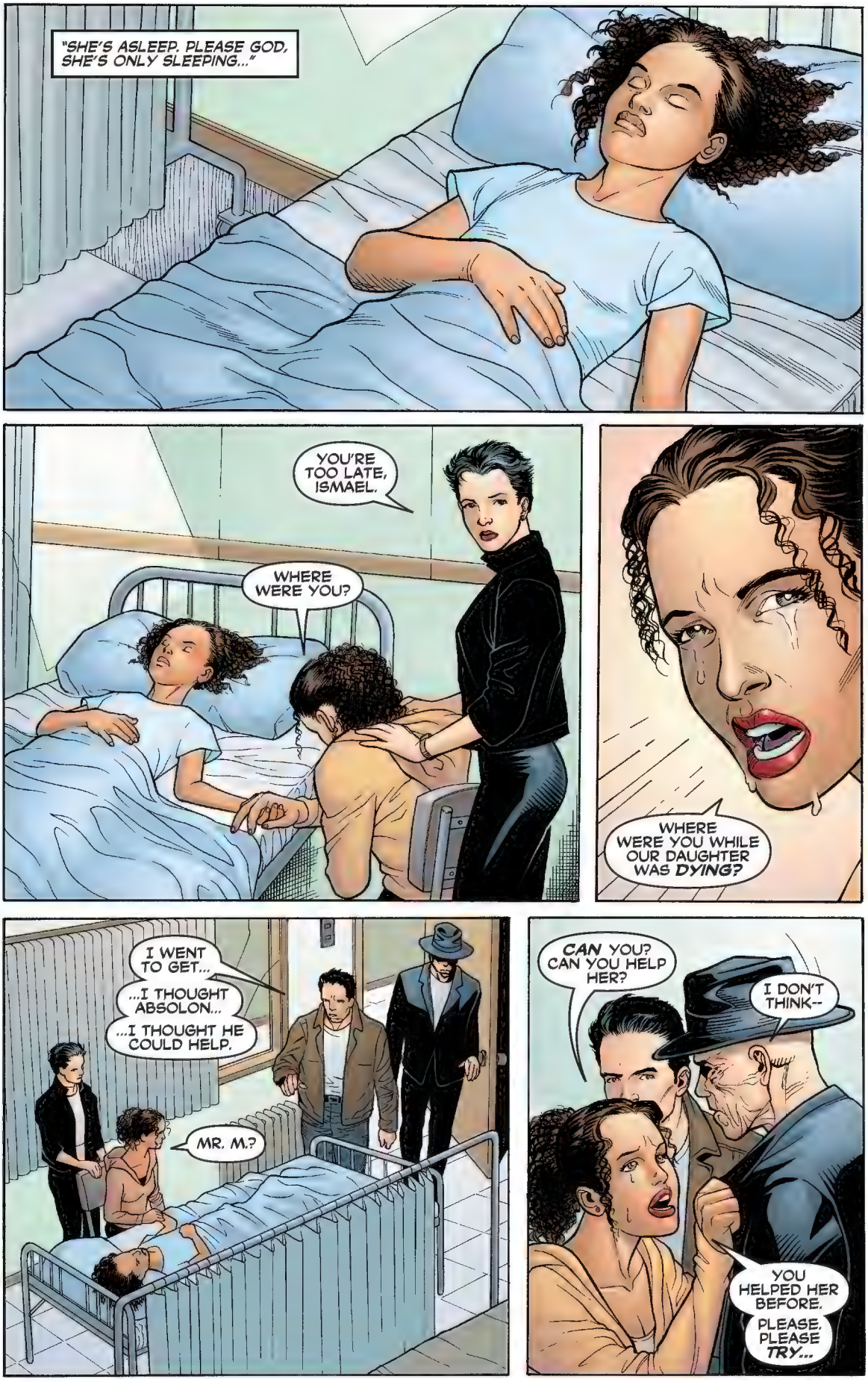
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I TELL YOU, MAN, I AM HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE NEAREST SINGLES BAR...

...AND I AM GOING TO GET *LAID!*

BEST BUY
COMIC QUEST
VIDEO
ORTEGA!
NYPD
NANCY, I NEED A RIDE.
ARE YOU KIDDING? WE'RE ON TWELVE-ONE-SIXTY ALERT. TAKE A LOOK AROUND, ORTEGA, THERE'S SOME REALLY WEIRD--
MY DAUGHTER'S SICK.
SHE'S IN E.R.
NV
OKAY, GET IN.
I NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE FIRST. McCARTHY AVENUE.
IT'S IMPORTANT.
YOU HEARD THE MAN, HECTOR.
WHAT'S GOING ON, NANCY?
DON'T KNOW FOR SURE.
SEEMS LIKE IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER.
THE MUTANTS AREN'T SO MUTANT ANY MORE.

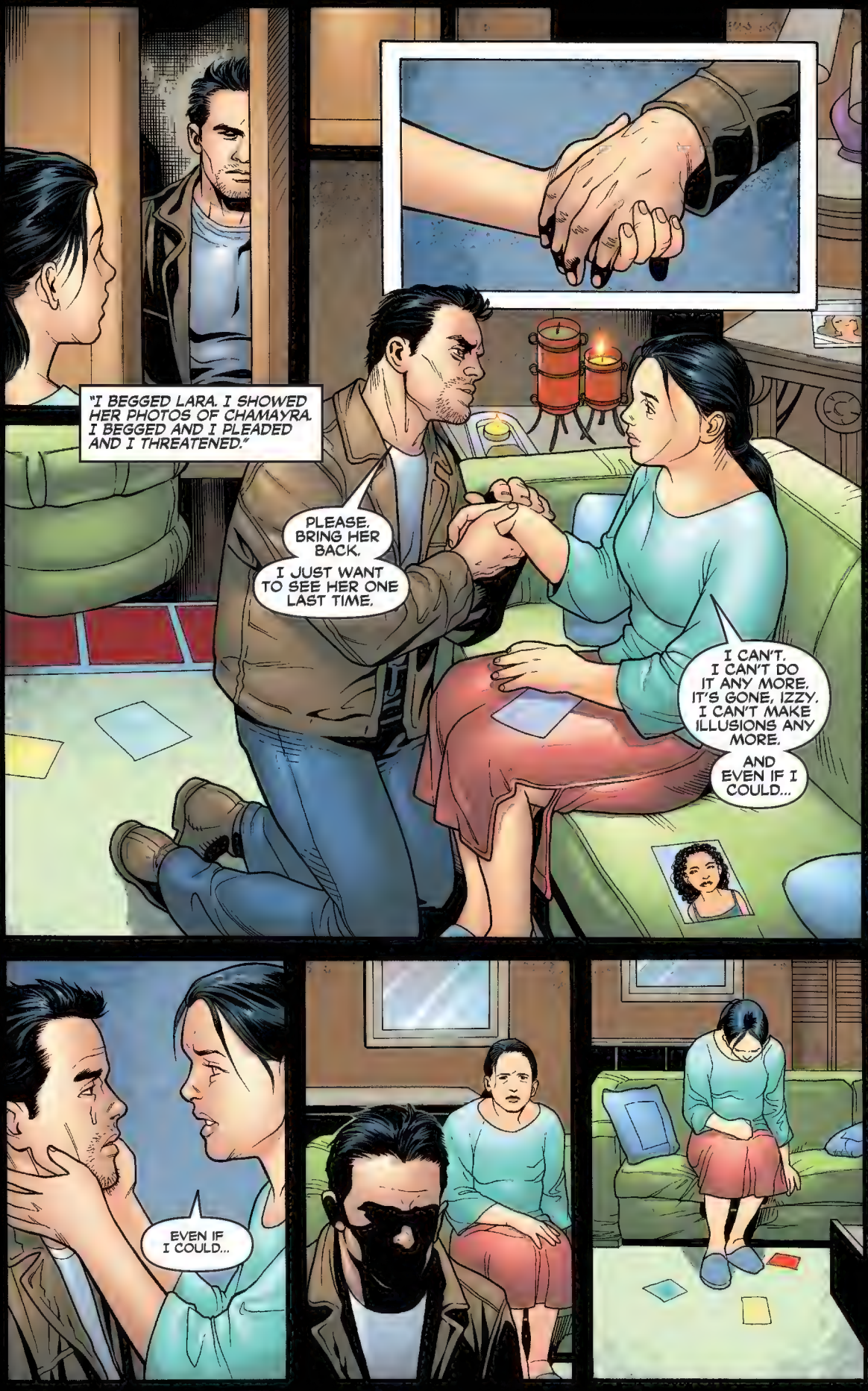
FIVE MINUTES GUYS, OKAY?
NYPD
POLICE
MERCATOR!
MR. MERCATOR, IT'S ISMAEL ORTEGA.
104
ISMAEL ORTEGA.
YES.
104
ABSOLON, I NEED YOUR HELP.
I NEED TO KNOW IF YOU CAN STILL --
--CAN YOU STILL CHANGE THINGS?
I DON'T KNOW.

HANNA'S INSECTS MUST HAVE GOTTEN OUT.
IT SEEMS, FOR MY SINS, THAT I STILL POSSESS MY GIFT.
KAAACHH
MY GOD!
SO...
...WHAT DO YOU REQUIRE FROM ME?


"SHE'S ASLEEP. PLEASE GOD, SHE'S ONLY SLEEPING..."
YOU'RE TOO LATE, ISMAEL.
WHERE WERE YOU?
WHERE WERE YOU WHILE OUR DAUGHTER WAS DYING?
I WENT TO GET...
...I THOUGHT ABSOLON...
...I THOUGHT HE COULD HELP.
MR. M.?
CAN YOU? CAN YOU HELP HER?
I DON'T THINK--
YOU HELPED HER BEFORE.
PLEASE. PLEASE TRY...

I'M SORRY.
LAST TIME, SHE WAS STILL ALIVE. I THOUGHT I HAD HEALED HER...
...BUT WHATEVER HAPPENED TODAY, IT UNDID THAT.
I CAN'T DO IT THIS TIME.
I CAN'T RAISE THE DEAD.
ARMENA?
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME.
CHAMY WAS GIVEN BACK TO US. WE SHOULD HAVE MADE THAT TIME PERFECT FOR HER.
BUT YOU WENT WITH THAT WOMAN. YOU LEFT US FOR THAT WHORE.
I--
JUST GO, ISMAEL.
I DON'T WANT YOU HERE.

I CAN'T EVEN BE WITH MY DAUGHTER.
IZZY, YOU'RE MY LITTLE BROTHER, AND I LOVE YOU, BUT...
...DO YOU KNOW HOW BADLY YOU SCREWED UP?
WHERE'S ESTEBAN, LALINE?
HE'S WITH MAMA AND PAPA. THEY DON'T KNOW--
I SHOULD GO TO HIM.
NO, ISMAEL. YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY UNTIL ARMENA SAYS SO.
BUT--
ARMENA WILL TELL HIM.
LISTEN LALI, TELL ARMENA. ESTEBAN MUST NEVER KNOW -- SHE CAN TELL HIM CHAMY DIED OF A BRAIN TUMOR -- CANCER -- ANYTHING.
ESTEBAN MUST NEVER THINK IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIM.
"SHE DIDN'T SAY THE WORDS, BUT I SAW IT IN HER EYES. IT WAS NEVER ESTEBAN'S FAULT. IT WAS MINE. ALL MINE."
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT? DO YOU HAVE SOMEWHERE--?
YEAH.
YEAH, I HAVE SOMEWHERE.


"I BEGGED LARA. I SHOWED HER PHOTOS OF CHAMAYRA. I BEGGED AND I PLEADED AND I THREATENED."
PLEASE. BRING HER BACK.
I JUST WANT TO SEE HER ONE LAST TIME.
I CAN'T. I CAN'T DO IT ANY MORE. IT'S GONE, IZZY. I CAN'T MAKE ILLUSIONS ANY MORE.
AND EVEN IF I COULD...
EVEN IF I COULD...

"I CAN'T FACE THE TRUTH ANY MORE.
"I CAN'T FACE ANYTHING."
IZZY.

THOUGHT I MIGHT FIND YOU HERE.
BISHOP. JUST CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM TROUBLE, CAN YOU?
GREGOR DOESN'T LOOK SO GOOD.
I THINK HIS ROOTS ARE GROWING INTO THE SEWERS.
I GUESS ALL THAT CRAP IS POISONING HIM.
YOU CAN'T STOP ME.
WASN'T PLANNING TO.
I COULD, THOUGH. THERE ARE A DOZEN WAYS I COULD TAKE THAT GUN OFF YOU BEFORE YOU COULD PULL THE TRIGGER.
YEAH, I GUESS YOU COULD ZAP ME WITH ONE OF YOUR HOTSHOT POWER BLASTS...

I HAVE SUBTLER WAYS.
YAAAH!
MICROWAVES, FOR INSTANCE.
I GUESS YOU STILL HAVE YOUR MUTANT POWERS, THEN?
I GUESS.
IT'LL COOL OFF IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO DO THIS.
YOU KNOW, IZZY, I'VE FOUGHT SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANTS ON THIS PLANET. FOUGHT MONSTERS AND ALIENS. I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE FIGHTING.
WHEN I'M NOT FIGHTING I SPEND MY TIME WITH OTHER PEOPLE WHO DO THE SAME THING. WHAT FAMILY I HAD, I LOST A LONG TIME AGO...
BISHOP, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, AND I APPRECIATE IT, BUT YOU REALLY AREN'T VERY GOOD AT THIS.
MAYBE NOT, BUT YOU SAVED MY LIFE ONCE SO I'M GOING TO SAY THIS ANYWAY...
I LIKE YOU, AND I LIKE ARMENA AND ESTEBAN.
I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO HAVE A FAMILY LIKE THEM.

ARMENA SENT ME TO FIND YOU.
I WOULD HAVE COME LOOKING ANYWAY, BUT SHE SENT ME. SHE TOLD ME TO BRING YOU BACK.
ARE YOU HEARING ME, ISMAEL?
IF YOU DO THIS, YOU'LL DESTROY THEM.
IS THAT IT?
YEAH, THAT'S IT.
NOW DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE THIS EASY FOR YOU. I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE.
GET OUT OF HERE, BISHOP.
I'M STAYING.

NOK
NOK
OH, LUCAS.
I BROUGHT YOUR HUSBAND HOME.

DADDY?

"MY WORK HERE IS ALMOST DONE."
GET RID OF THIS FOR ME.
I NEVER WANT TO TOUCH ANOTHER GUN AS LONG AS I LIVE.
Jail
Bad Guy
My Dad is A Police
He keeps us

DAD?
HEY BANITO. WHAT'S UP? CAN'T SLEEP?
IT'S OKAY. YOU CAN SLEEP WITH US TONIGHT.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SLEEP BUBBLE?
I DON'T KNOW. IT WENT AWAY.

"THIS HAS BEEN A LONG DAY.
"FOR SOME, IT WAS A DAY OF TRAGEDY, FOR OTHERS, A BLESSED RELIEF.
"I GUESS THEY WON'T BE CALLING THIS MUTANT TOWN ANY MORE, OR DISTRICT X. PEOPLE WILL TALK ABOUT THIS AS THE PLACE MUTANTS **USED** TO LIVE.
"THERE WAS NO PLAGUE. NO MASS SLAUGHTER...
"...THEY JUST STOPPED BEING MUTANTS."

DECIMATION: HOUSE OF M — THE DAY AFTER

STARLITE CASINO, ATLANTIC CITY
WHEN HE FELL ASLEEP, ALL WAS RIGHT IN THE WORLD...
GWUH!
LORDY!
WHAT A NIGHT!
MAN, DRANK WAY TOO MUCH... I GOTTA GO!
DANG, FEELS LIKE I'M ALL TANGLED UP INNA BEDSHEETS!
HAAALP!
KRASH!
WAIT-- SUMPIN' AIN'T--
...WHERE'S THE DANG SWITCH?!
KLIK!
GASP!
NO, OH MY LORD-- NO!

THE DAY AFTER
FRED J. DUKES,
A.K.A-
-THE BLOB!
NNNOOOOOO!

M-DAY
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, MARISOL?
I HEAR TERRIBLE SCREAM, SEÑOR ROYCE. THEN-- SOBBING. NOW-- NOTHING.
ARE WE REALLY TALKING THE BLOB HERE?
WERE YOU INSANE, PHIL-- RENTING A SUITE TO A KNOWN MUTANT TERRORIST?
HEY, IF I TURNED HIM AWAY, I'M UP TO MY NECK IN MUTIE-RIGHTS LAWSUITS!
NOT TO MENTION THE DAMAGE HE COULD DO IF HE GOT ANGRY.
NOK NOK NOK
FORGET KNOCKING, JUST GIVE ME HIS ROOM KEY.
ALRIGHT, BUT YOU'RE GOING IN FIRST.
MR. DUKES, IT'S THE HOTEL MANAGER...SIR, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
MR. DUKES?
IT...IT WON'T CUT.
THERE'S TOO MUCH SKIN.
IT WON'T CUT.
YOU GOTTA GUN?
PLEASE.
SHOW ME SOME KINDNESS, PLEASE.
SHOOT ME!

THIS IS *TRISH TILBY*, REPORTING LIVE FROM MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE.

HERE, IN THIS OLD TENEMENT NEIGHBORHOOD THAT MUTANTS HAVE COME TO CLAIM AS THEIR OWN, THE MOOD IS ONE OF CONFUSION AND A VERY PALPABLE *FEAR*.

NO ONE IS QUITE SURE YET PRECISELY *WHAT* IS HAPPENING, BUT REPORTS HAVE BEEN COMING IN ALL MORNING OF MUTANTS DISCOVERING THAT THEY HAVE LOST THEIR *POWERS*.

IN THE INITIAL SURGE OF *PANIC*, THERE WERE SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF LOOTING AND ARSON, BUT CIVIL AUTHORITIES HAVE THAT SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

NOW, THEY'RE WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE *RED CROSS* AND *FEMA* TO DETERMINE HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP THEM. AT THE MOMENT, PEOPLE ARE MOSTLY IN *SHOCK*. NO ONE KNOWS *WHY*, OR *HOW* THIS HAPPENED...

...AND MOST IMPORTANTLY OF ALL, WHETHER THE EFFECT IS TEMPORARY--OR *PERMANENT*.

HOW *BAD* IS IT, CHIEF?

TRUTH, *BISHOP*?

YOU'RE THE *FIRST* MUTANT I'VE SEEN TODAY THAT STILL HAS HIS *MOJO*.

WE'LL HAVE TO *CANVAS* THE NEIGHBORHOOD, TRY TO DETERMINE HOW *WIDESPREAD* THIS CONDITION IS.

CAN'T YOU *X-MEN* HANDLE THAT? I MEAN... *YOU'RE* ALL OKAY, AREN'T'CHA?

NO... WE'RE NOT.

WE'VE SUFFERED *CASUALTIES* OURSELVES.

AND...AND WE HAVE NO *ANSWERS*.

I'M SORRY, OFFICER--

MY GOD--IS THIS SOME SORT OF *TERRORIST* ATTACK?

IS SOMETHING *WORSE* GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE *REST* OF US?

--I JUST *DON'T KNOW*.

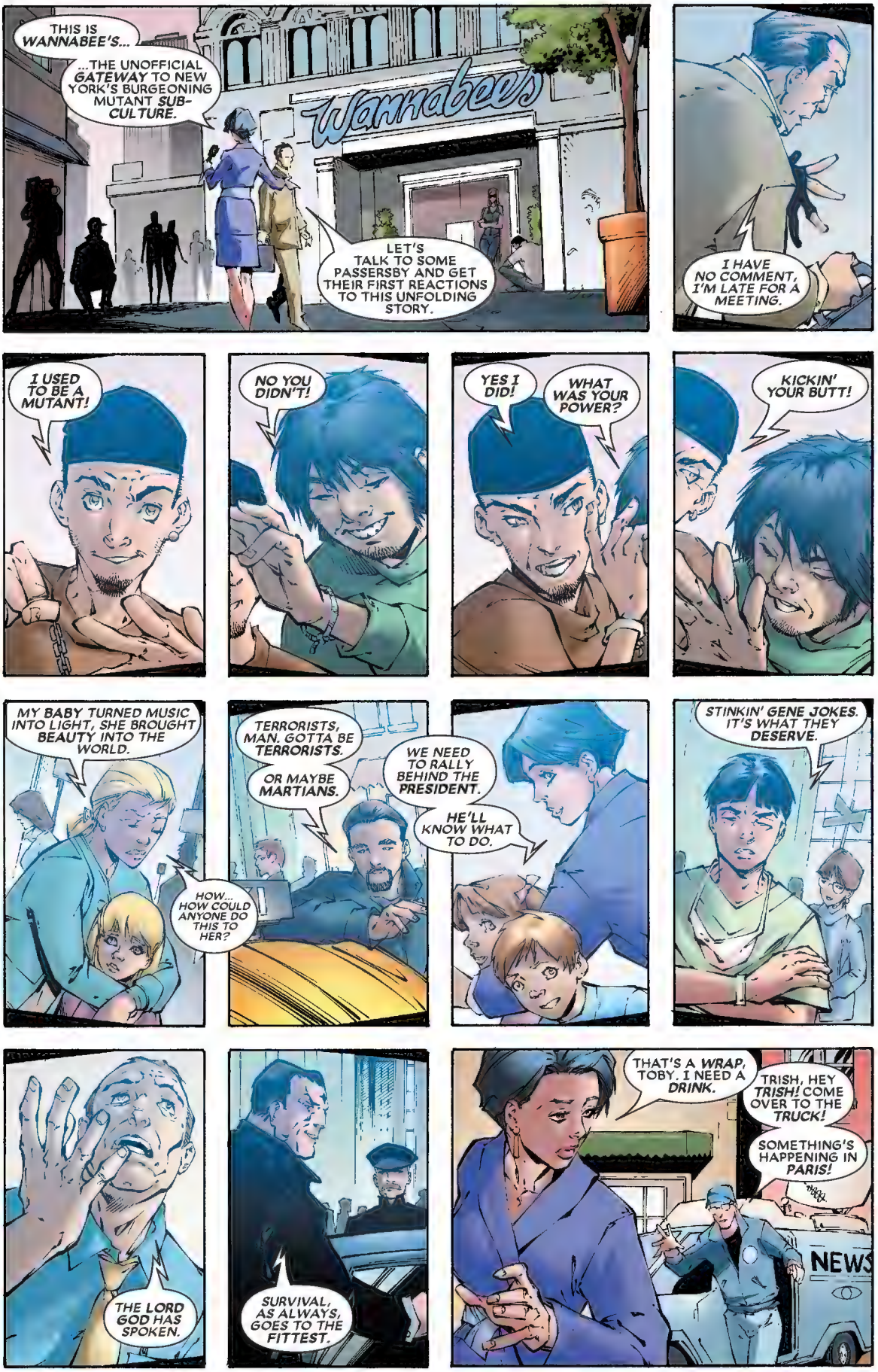
BISHOP!

MS. TILBY.

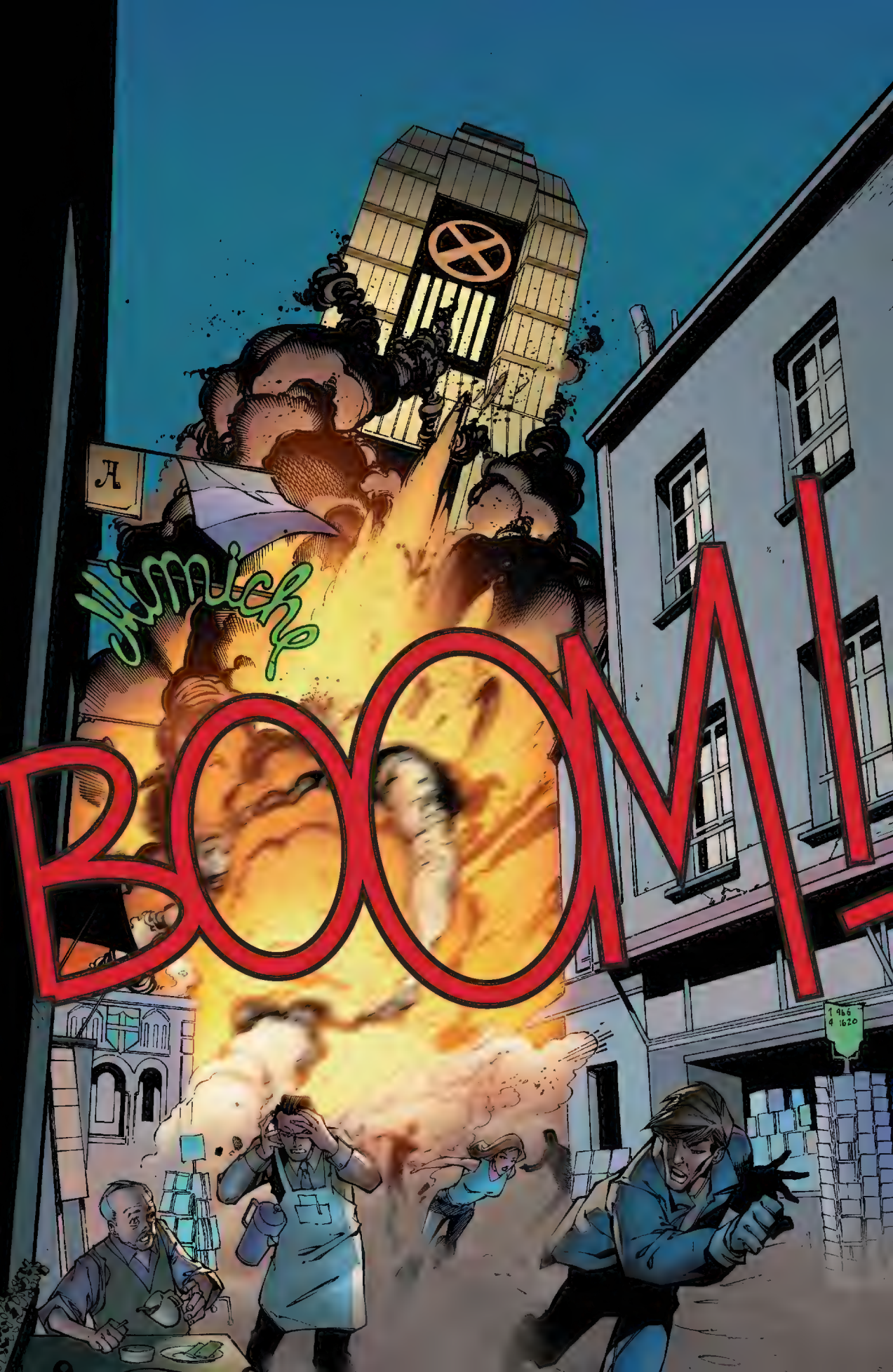
PLEASE-- HOW'S *HENRY*?

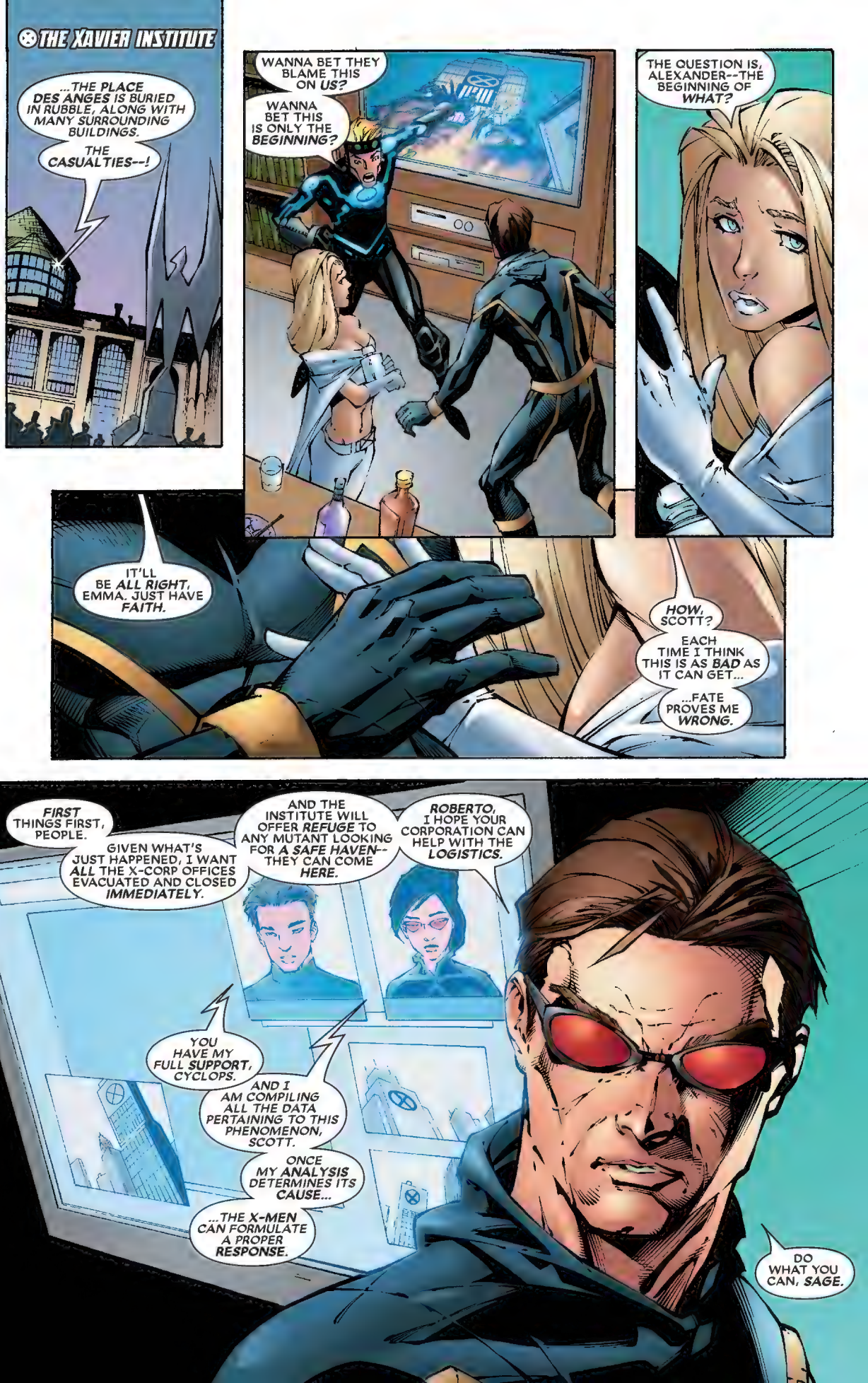
SAME AS EVER, THANKFULLY--STILL THE *BEAST*.

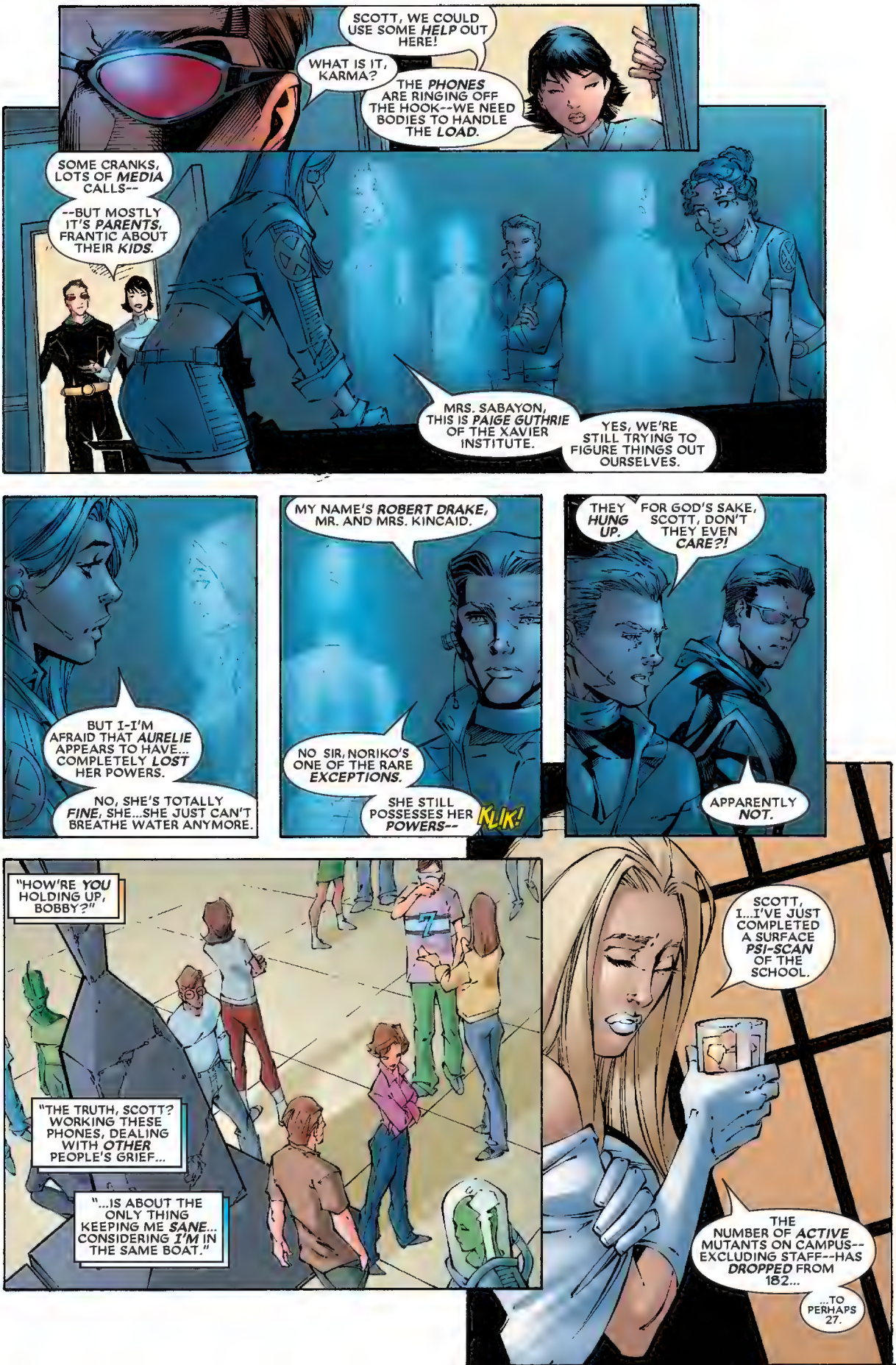
ASK HIM...ASK HIM TO *CALL* ME, LUCAS. *PLEASE*.


THIS IS WANNABEE'S...
...THE UNOFFICIAL GATEWAY TO NEW YORK'S BURGEONING MUTANT SUB-CULTURE.
Wannabee's
LET'S TALK TO SOME PASSERSBY AND GET THEIR FIRST REACTIONS TO THIS UNFOLDING STORY.
I HAVE NO COMMENT, I'M LATE FOR A MEETING.
I USED TO BE A MUTANT!
NO YOU DIDN'T!
YES I DID!
WHAT WAS YOUR POWER?
KICKIN' YOUR BUTT!
MY BABY TURNED MUSIC INTO LIGHT, SHE BROUGHT BEAUTY INTO THE WORLD.
HOW... HOW COULD ANYONE DO THIS TO HER?
TERRORISTS, MAN. GOTTA BE TERRORISTS.
OR MAYBE MARTIANS.
WE NEED TO RALLY BEHIND THE PRESIDENT.
HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.
STINKIN' GENE JOKES. IT'S WHAT THEY DESERVE.
THE LORD GOD HAS SPOKEN.
SURVIVAL, AS ALWAYS, GOES TO THE FITTEST.
THAT'S A WRAP, TOBY. I NEED A DRINK.
TRISH, HEY TRISH! COME OVER TO THE TRUCK!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING IN PARIS!
NEWS

THIS IS MICHELLE D'ARCY, REPORTING LIVE FROM THE EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS OF X-CORP...
...THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL AID ORGANIZATION CREATED BY MUTANT RIGHTS CAMPAIGNER, CHARLES XAVIER.
FROM ACROSS FRANCE, ACROSS THE CONTINENT, WE'RE RECEIVING BULLETINS THAT MUTANTS HAVE LOST THEIR POWERS.
REPEATED CALLS TO X-CORP FOR A COMMENT HAVE GONE UNANSWERED, THOUGH IT'S BELIEVED THAT THE BUILDING SERVES AS A HAVEN, NOT ONLY FOR ITS STAFF, BUT FOR THEIR FAMILIES.
THIS SKYSCRAPER HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FOCAL POINT OF CONFLICT BETWEEN PRO- AND ANTI-MUTANT ADVOCATES.
TODAY IS NO DIFFERENT...
... THOUGH OFFICERS OF THE GENDARMERIE HAVE BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY TO KEEP THE PEACE.
WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION?
I HEAR SCREAMS.
WHY ARE PEOPLE RUNNING?
OH MY GOD.
DEAR LORD...
NOOOO!
...HAVE MERCY.


Mimic
BOOM!


THE XAVIER INSTITUTE
...THE PLACE DES ANGES IS BURIED IN RUBBLE, ALONG WITH MANY SURROUNDING BUILDINGS.
THE CASUALTIES--!
WANNA BET THEY BLAME THIS ON US?
WANNA BET THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING?
THE QUESTION IS, ALEXANDER--THE BEGINNING OF WHAT?
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, EMMA. JUST HAVE FAITH.
HOW, SCOTT?
EACH TIME I THINK THIS IS AS BAD AS IT CAN GET...
...FATE PROVES ME WRONG.
FIRST THINGS FIRST, PEOPLE.
GIVEN WHAT'S JUST HAPPENED, I WANT ALL THE X-CORP OFFICES EVACUATED AND CLOSED IMMEDIATELY.
AND THE INSTITUTE WILL OFFER REFUGE TO ANY MUTANT LOOKING FOR A SAFE HAVEN--THEY CAN COME HERE.
ROBERTO, I HOPE YOUR CORPORATION CAN HELP WITH THE LOGISTICS.
YOU HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT, CYCLOPS.
AND I AM COMPILING ALL THE DATA PERTAINING TO THIS PHENOMENON, SCOTT.
ONCE MY ANALYSIS DETERMINES ITS CAUSE...
...THE X-MEN CAN FORMULATE A PROPER RESPONSE.
DO WHAT YOU CAN, SAGE.


SCOTT, WE COULD USE SOME HELP OUT HERE!
WHAT IS IT, KARMA?
THE PHONES ARE RINGING OFF THE HOOK--WE NEED BODIES TO HANDLE THE LOAD.
SOME CRANKS, LOTS OF MEDIA CALLS--
--BUT MOSTLY IT'S PARENTS, FRANTIC ABOUT THEIR KIDS.
MRS. SABAYON, THIS IS PAIGE GUTHRIE OF THE XAVIER INSTITUTE.
YES, WE'RE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE THINGS OUT OURSELVES.
BUT I-I'M AFRAID THAT AURELIE APPEARS TO HAVE... COMPLETELY LOST HER POWERS.
NO, SHE'S TOTALLY FINE, SHE...SHE JUST CAN'T BREATHE WATER ANYMORE.
MY NAME'S ROBERT DRAKE, MR. AND MRS. KINCAID.
NO SIR, NORIKO'S ONE OF THE RARE EXCEPTIONS.
SHE STILL POSSESSES HER POWERS--
KLIK!
THEY HUNG UP.
FOR GOD'S SAKE, SCOTT, DON'T THEY EVEN CARE?!
APPARENTLY NOT.
"HOW'RE YOU HOLDING UP, BOBBY?"
"THE TRUTH, SCOTT? WORKING THESE PHONES, DEALING WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S GRIEF...
"...IS ABOUT THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME SANE... CONSIDERING I'M IN THE SAME BOAT."
SCOTT, I...I'VE JUST COMPLETED A SURFACE PSI-SCAN OF THE SCHOOL.
THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE MUTANTS ON CAMPUS--EXCLUDING STAFF--HAS DROPPED FROM 182...
...TO PERHAPS 27.

THE WAR ROOM

SETTLE DOWN, PEOPLE, WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB AHEAD OF US--PERHAPS THE BIGGEST WE'VE EVER FACED.

AS CO-HEADS OF THE XAVIER INSTITUTE, EMMA AND I HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE SOME FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES.

FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY, WE'RE RECOMMENDING THAT ALL NON-POWERED STUDENTS RETURN HOME--AT LEAST FOR THE DURATION OF THIS EMERGENCY.

BY THE SAME TOKEN, WE'LL BE OPENING OUR DOORS TO ANY MUTANT LOOKING FOR A SAFE HAVEN.

TO FACILITATE THIS PROCESS, WE NEED TO OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION--WORLD-WIDE, BOTH OFFICIAL AND BACK CHANNEL--WITH CIVIL AUTHORITIES.

UNDERSTAND THIS--EVERYONE'S SCARED.

WE HAVE TO FIND WAYS TO RESTORE A MEASURE OF CALM. AND THEN, IF WE'RE LUCKY, HOPE.

MADROX
DE-POWERED
THORNN
SIRYN
DOMINO
DE-POWERED
CANNONBALL
MAGMA
DE-POWERED
MIRAGE
FORGE
DE-POWERED
CABLE
DE-POWERED
BLOB
JUBILEE
DE-POWERED
DE-POWERED
JUSTICE

HAVEN'T HEARD "BOO" FROM MYSTIQUE.

BAD PENNY LIKE HER, CHER?

SHE'LL FIND A WAY TO SURVIVE.

KITTY, YOUR HANDS ARE TREMBLING.

HAPPENS, I GUESS, WHEN THE WORLD TURNS UPSIDE-DOWN.

JUST REMEMBERING MY OLD TESTAMENT:

"AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT AT MIDNIGHT THE LORD SMOTE ALL THE FIRSTBORN IN THE LAND OF EGYPT...AND THERE WAS A GREAT CRY IN EGYPT; FOR THERE WAS NOT A HOUSE...

"...WHERE THERE WAS NOT ONE DEAD."

YOU'RE THINKING HARD, RACHEL, LUV.

THE DETAILS OF HISTORY MAY CHANGE, BETSY...

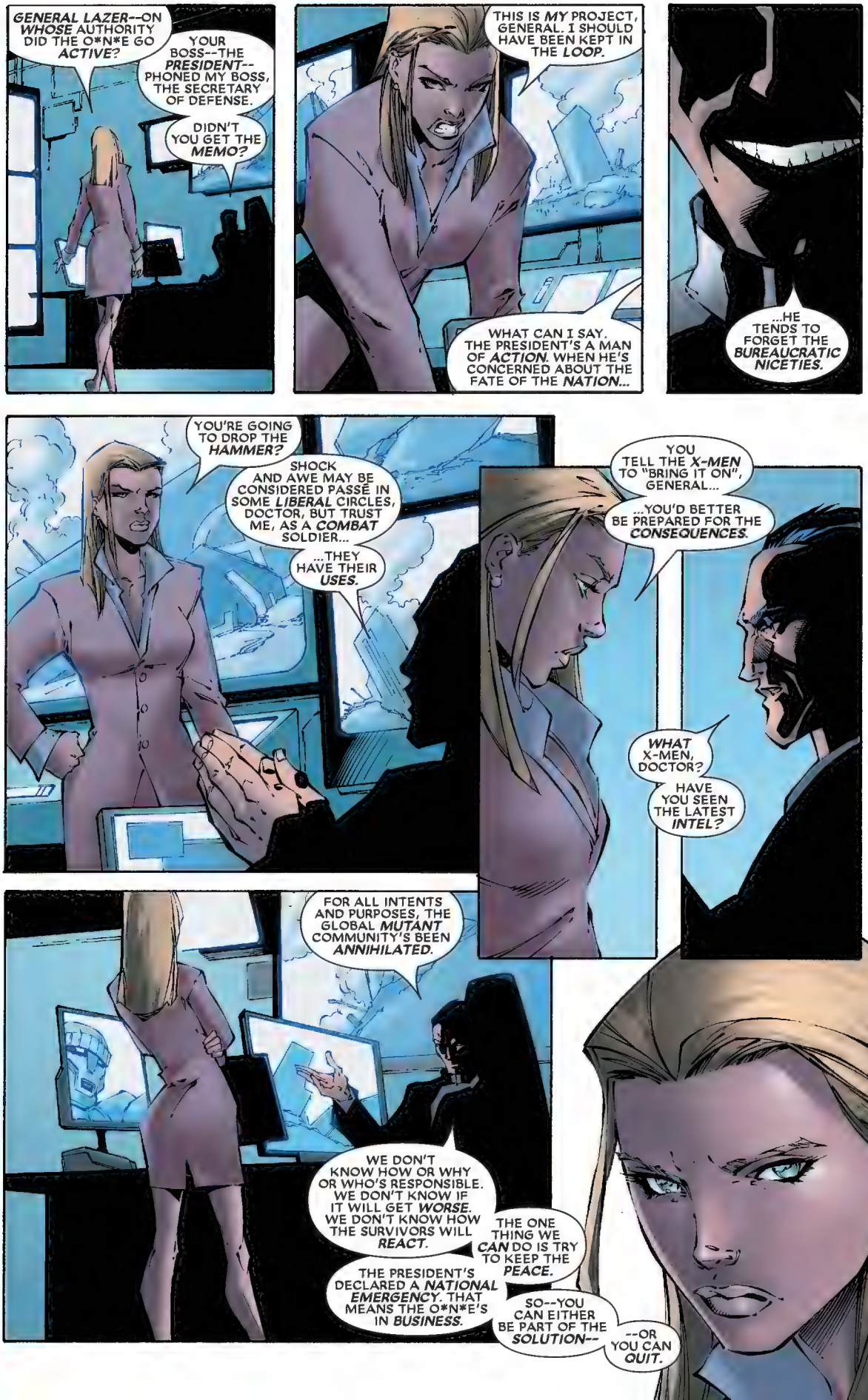
...BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

...THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME STAYS THE SAME.

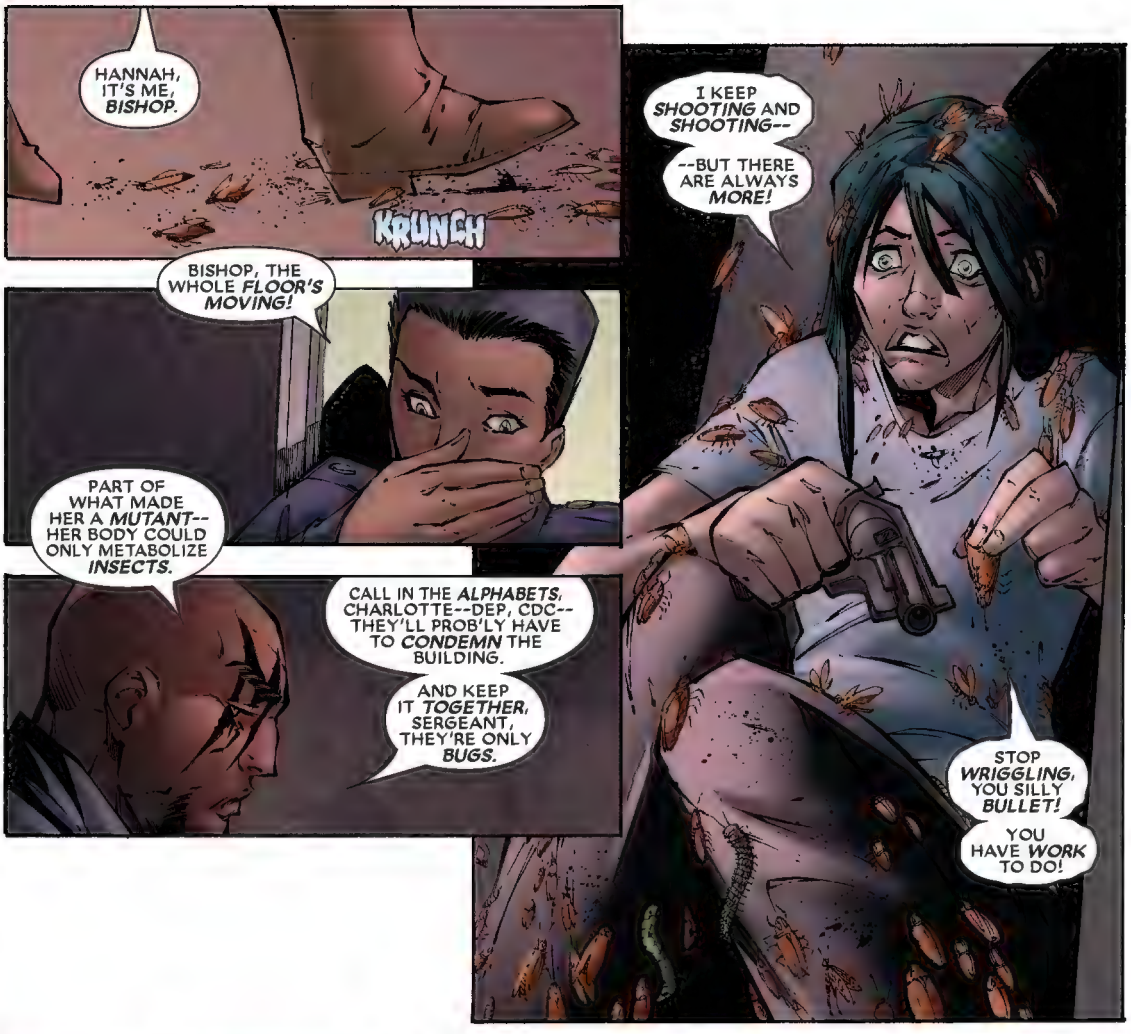
ALEX WAS RIGHT...

...THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

THE PENTAGON–WASHINGTON, D.C.
THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY
THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA, MA'AM.
I HAVE AUTHORIZATION, SOLDIER.
DR. VALERIE COOPER--
--DEPUTY PRESIDENTIAL NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR FOR PARA-HUMAN AFFAIRS.
THANK YOU, MA'AM. ONE MOMENT, PLEASE, WHILE I VERIFY CLEARANCE.
ACCESS IS APPROVED, DR. COOPER.
"WELCOME TO THE O*N*E."


GENERAL LAZER--ON WHOSE AUTHORITY DID THE O*N*E GO ACTIVE?
YOUR BOSS--THE PRESIDENT--PHONED MY BOSS, THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.
DIDN'T YOU GET THE MEMO?
THIS IS MY PROJECT, GENERAL. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN KEPT IN THE LOOP.
WHAT CAN I SAY. THE PRESIDENT'S A MAN OF ACTION. WHEN HE'S CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF THE NATION...
...HE TENDS TO FORGET THE BUREAUCRATIC NICETIES.
YOU'RE GOING TO DROP THE HAMMER?
SHOCK AND AWE MAY BE CONSIDERED PASSÉ IN SOME LIBERAL CIRCLES, DOCTOR, BUT TRUST ME, AS A COMBAT SOLDIER...
...THEY HAVE THEIR USES.
YOU TELL THE X-MEN TO "BRING IT ON", GENERAL...
...YOU'D BETTER BE PREPARED FOR THE CONSEQUENCES.
WHAT X-MEN, DOCTOR?
HAVE YOU SEEN THE LATEST INTEL?
FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THE GLOBAL MUTANT COMMUNITY'S BEEN ANNIHILATED.
WE DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY OR WHO'S RESPONSIBLE. WE DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL GET WORSE. WE DON'T KNOW HOW THE SURVIVORS WILL REACT.
THE ONE THING WE CAN DO IS TRY TO KEEP THE PEACE.
THE PRESIDENT'S DECLARED A NATIONAL EMERGENCY. THAT MEANS THE O*N*E'S IN BUSINESS.
SO--YOU CAN EITHER BE PART OF THE SOLUTION--
--OR YOU CAN QUIT.

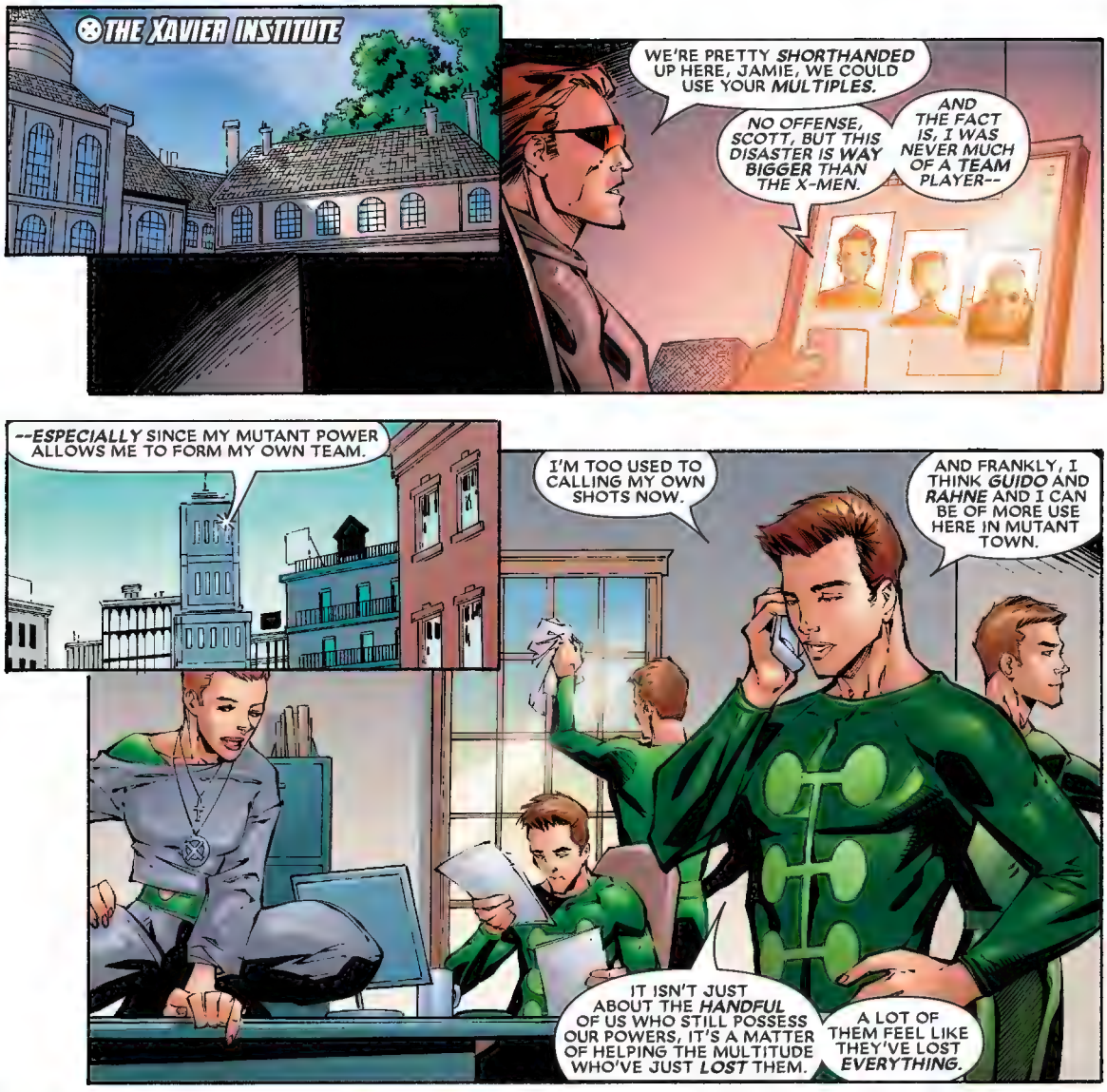
MUTANT-TOWN
THE CALL TO 9-1-1 REPORTED GUNSHOTS.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ON DUTY, SERGEANT JONES?
PRETTY MUCH SINCE THIS MESS BEGAN.
AND CALL ME CHARLOTTE, MR. BISHOP.
IF YOU SPEAK TO FORGE OR...ARCHANGEL--TELL THEM THEY'RE IN MY PRAYERS.
WHO LIVES HERE, BY THE WAY?
WOMAN NAMED HANNAH LEVY.
427
BLAM BLAM
BOOT!
MISS LEVY--THIS IS THE POLICE!
OH--OH MY GOD!
LOVE TO EAT THEM BUGSIES...
...BUGSIES WHAT I LOVED TO EAT...
...ONLY I CAN'T ANYMORE.
I CAN'T I CAN'T I CAN'T!
SO ALL MY PET BUGSIES...
...NOW THEY WANT TO EAT ME!

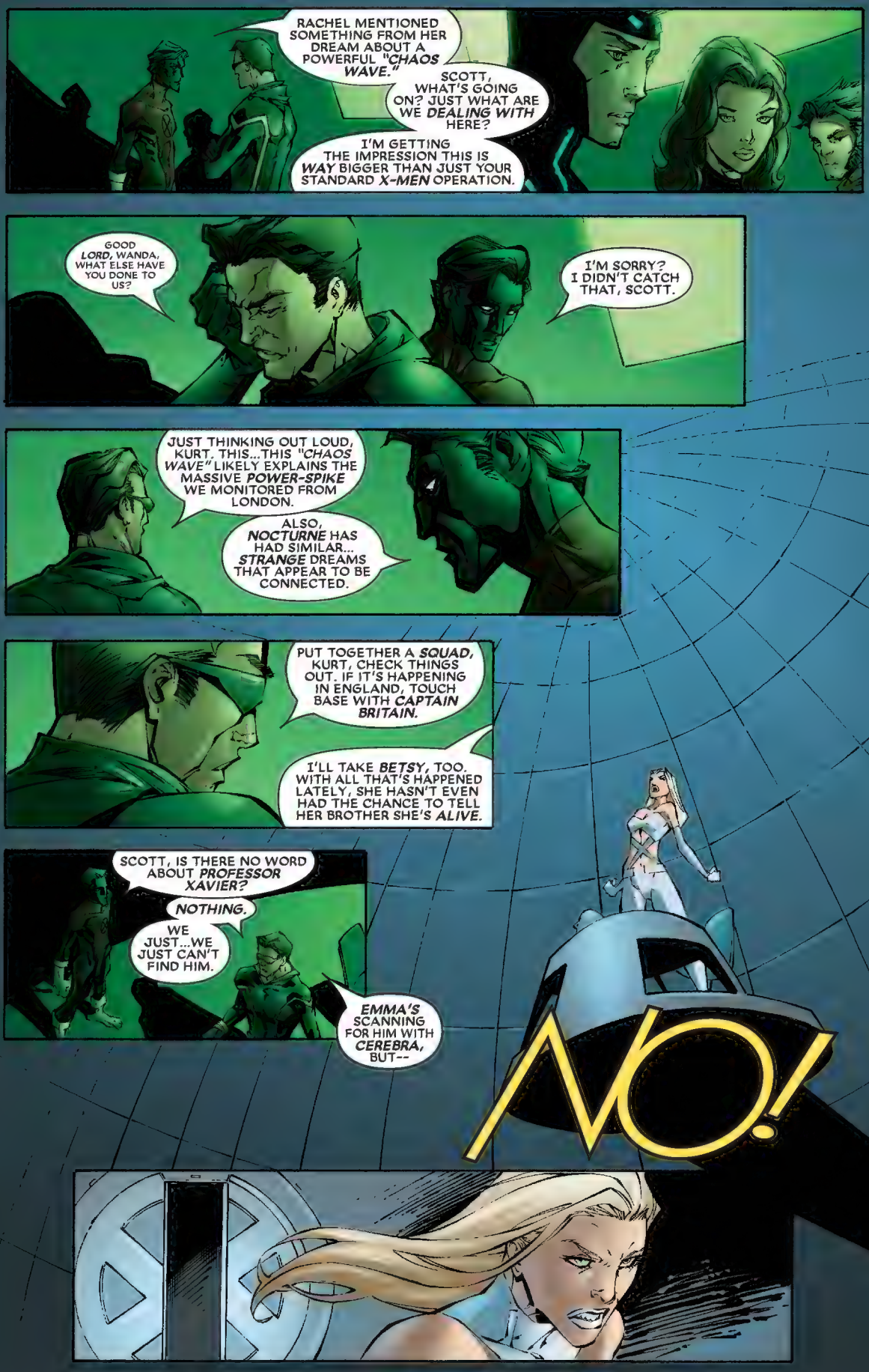

HANNAH, IT'S ME, BISHOP.
KRUNCH
I KEEP SHOOTING AND SHOOTING--
--BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS MORE!
BISHOP, THE WHOLE FLOOR'S MOVING!
PART OF WHAT MADE HER A MUTANT-- HER BODY COULD ONLY METABOLIZE INSECTS.
CALL IN THE ALPHABETS, CHARLOTTE--DEP, CDC-- THEY'LL PROB'LY HAVE TO CONDEMN THE BUILDING.
AND KEEP IT TOGETHER, SERGEANT, THEY'RE ONLY BUGS.
STOP WRIGGLING, YOU SILLY BULLET!
YOU HAVE WORK TO DO!

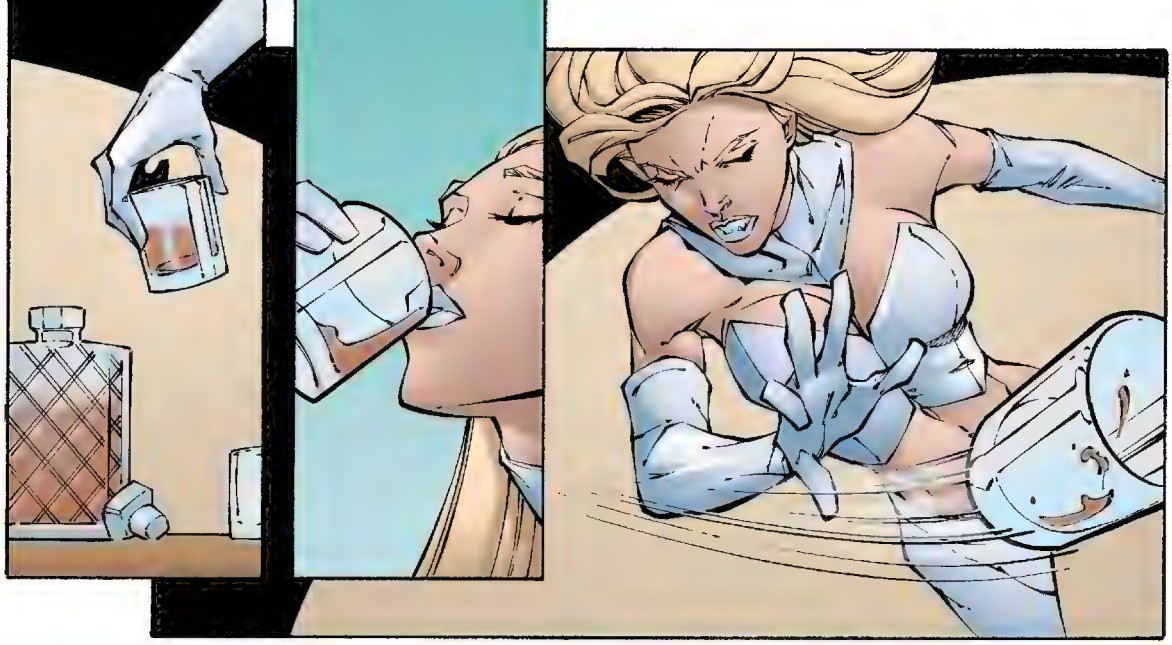
NO MORE NEED FOR GUNS, HANNAH.
HELP'S ARRIVED.
YOU'RE SAFE NOW, YOU'RE WITH FRIENDS, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.

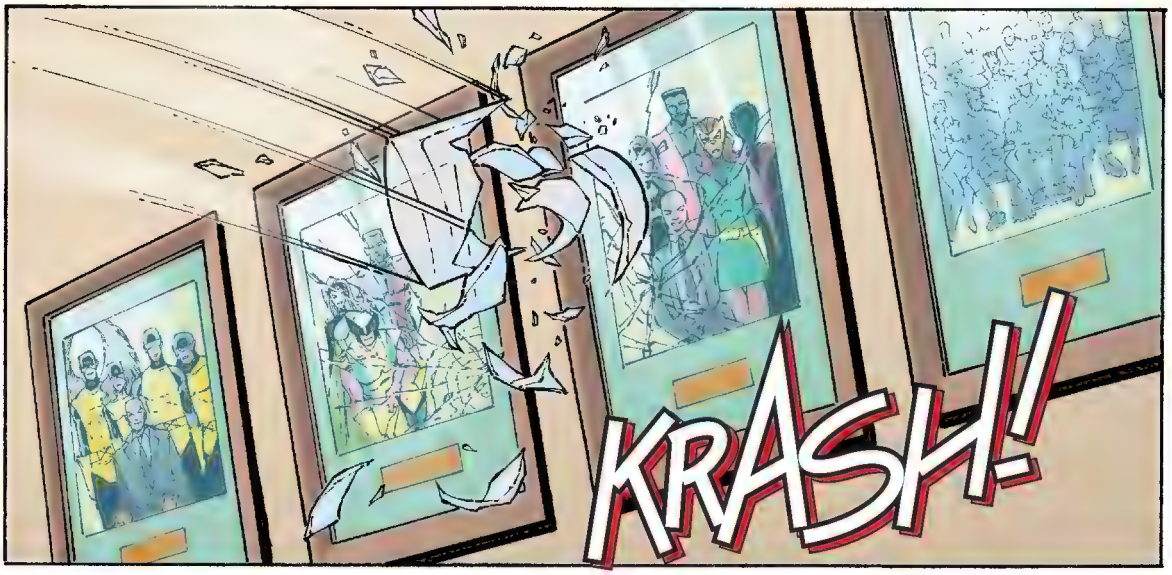
I WENT TO BED, MY WORLD WAS NORMAL.
I WOKE UP IN HELL.
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING? WHAT DID I DO THAT WAS SO WRONG?

NOT A THING.
I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT...
...BUT YOU HAVE MY WORD I'LL DO ALL I CAN TO MAKE IT BETTER.
CENTRAL-K, WE HAVE ANOTHER CASUALTY.


THE XAVIER INSTITUTE
WE'RE PRETTY SHORTHANDED UP HERE, JAMIE, WE COULD USE YOUR MULTIPLES.
NO OFFENSE, SCOTT, BUT THIS DISASTER IS WAY BIGGER THAN THE X-MEN.
AND THE FACT IS, I WAS NEVER MUCH OF A TEAM PLAYER--
--ESPECIALLY SINCE MY MUTANT POWER ALLOWS ME TO FORM MY OWN TEAM.
I'M TOO USED TO CALLING MY OWN SHOTS NOW.
AND FRANKLY, I THINK GUIDO AND RAHNE AND I CAN BE OF MORE USE HERE IN MUTANT TOWN.
IT ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE HANDFUL OF US WHO STILL POSSESS OUR POWERS, IT'S A MATTER OF HELPING THE MULTITUDE WHO'VE JUST LOST THEM.
A LOT OF THEM FEEL LIKE THEY'VE LOST EVERYTHING.
OFF YER RUMP, CARROTTOP, SOME OF US GOT FURNITURE TA MOVE.
Y' GREAT THUMPING PILLOCK--
--DID NONE O' Y'R MISBEGOTTEN RELATIONS TEACH YEH PROPER MANNERS?!
'SCUSE ME, WAS I THE ONE SITTING ON THE TABLE?
IN THE BACKGROUND? JUST RAHNE AND GUIDO-- SAME OLD, SAME OLD.
YEAH, ABSOLUTELY WE'LL STAY IN TOUCH. GOOD LUCK TO YOU, TOO, SCOTT.

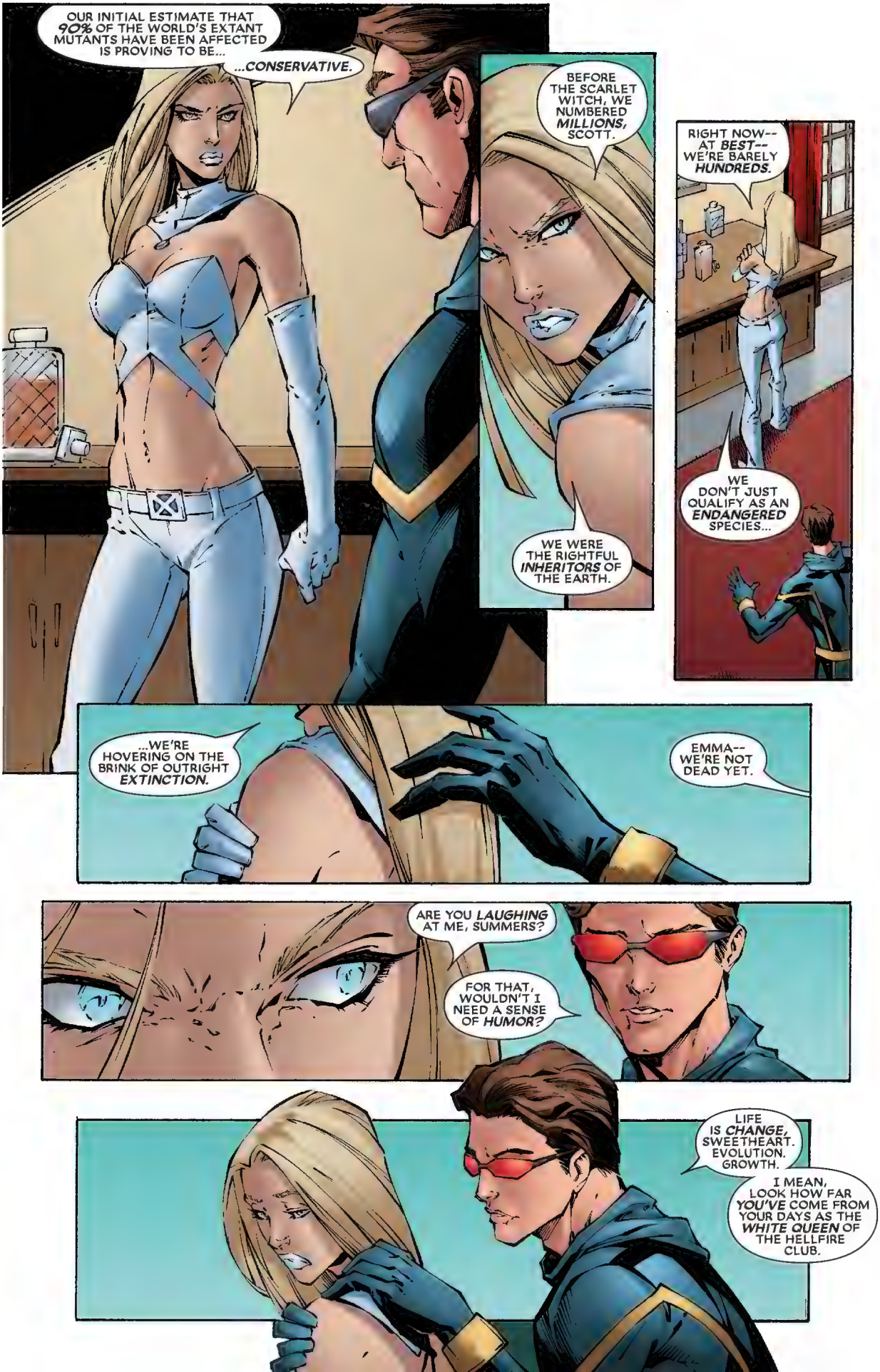

RACHEL MENTIONED SOMETHING FROM HER DREAM ABOUT A POWERFUL "CHAOS WAVE."
SCOTT, WHAT'S GOING ON? JUST WHAT ARE WE DEALING WITH HERE?
I'M GETTING THE IMPRESSION THIS IS WAY BIGGER THAN JUST YOUR STANDARD X-MEN OPERATION.
GOOD LORD, WANDA, WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU DONE TO US?
I'M SORRY? I DIDN'T CATCH THAT, SCOTT.
JUST THINKING OUT LOUD, KURT. THIS...THIS "CHAOS WAVE" LIKELY EXPLAINS THE MASSIVE POWER-SPIKE WE MONITORED FROM LONDON.
ALSO, NOCTURNE HAS HAD SIMILAR... STRANGE DREAMS THAT APPEAR TO BE CONNECTED.
PUT TOGETHER A SQUAD, KURT, CHECK THINGS OUT. IF IT'S HAPPENING IN ENGLAND, TOUCH BASE WITH CAPTAIN BRITAIN.
I'LL TAKE BETSY, TOO. WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENED LATELY, SHE HASN'T EVEN HAD THE CHANCE TO TELL HER BROTHER SHE'S ALIVE.
SCOTT, IS THERE NO WORD ABOUT PROFESSOR XAVIER?
NOTHING.
WE JUST...WE JUST CAN'T FIND HIM.
EMMA'S SCANNING FOR HIM WITH CEREBRA, BUT--
NO!

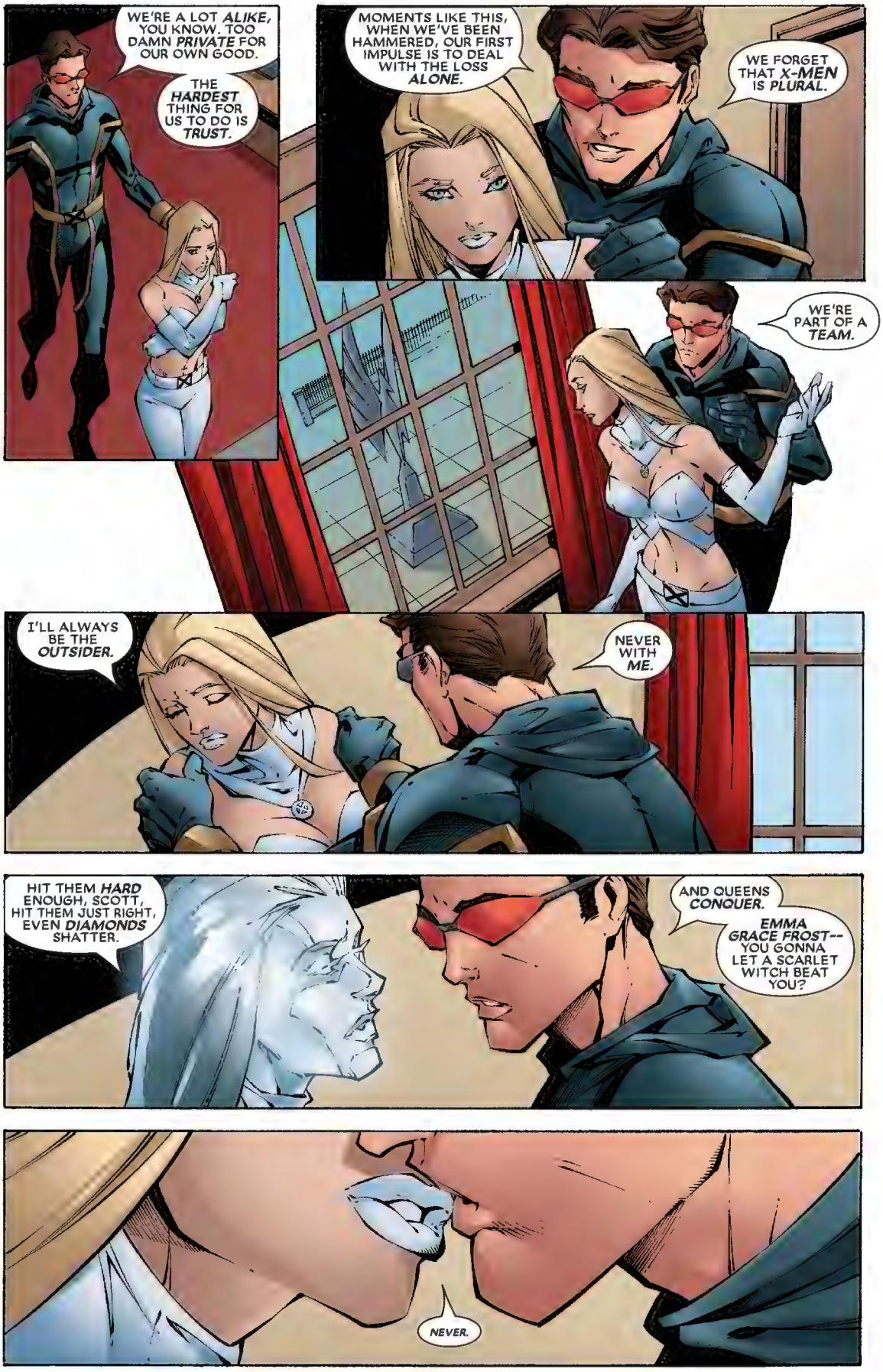


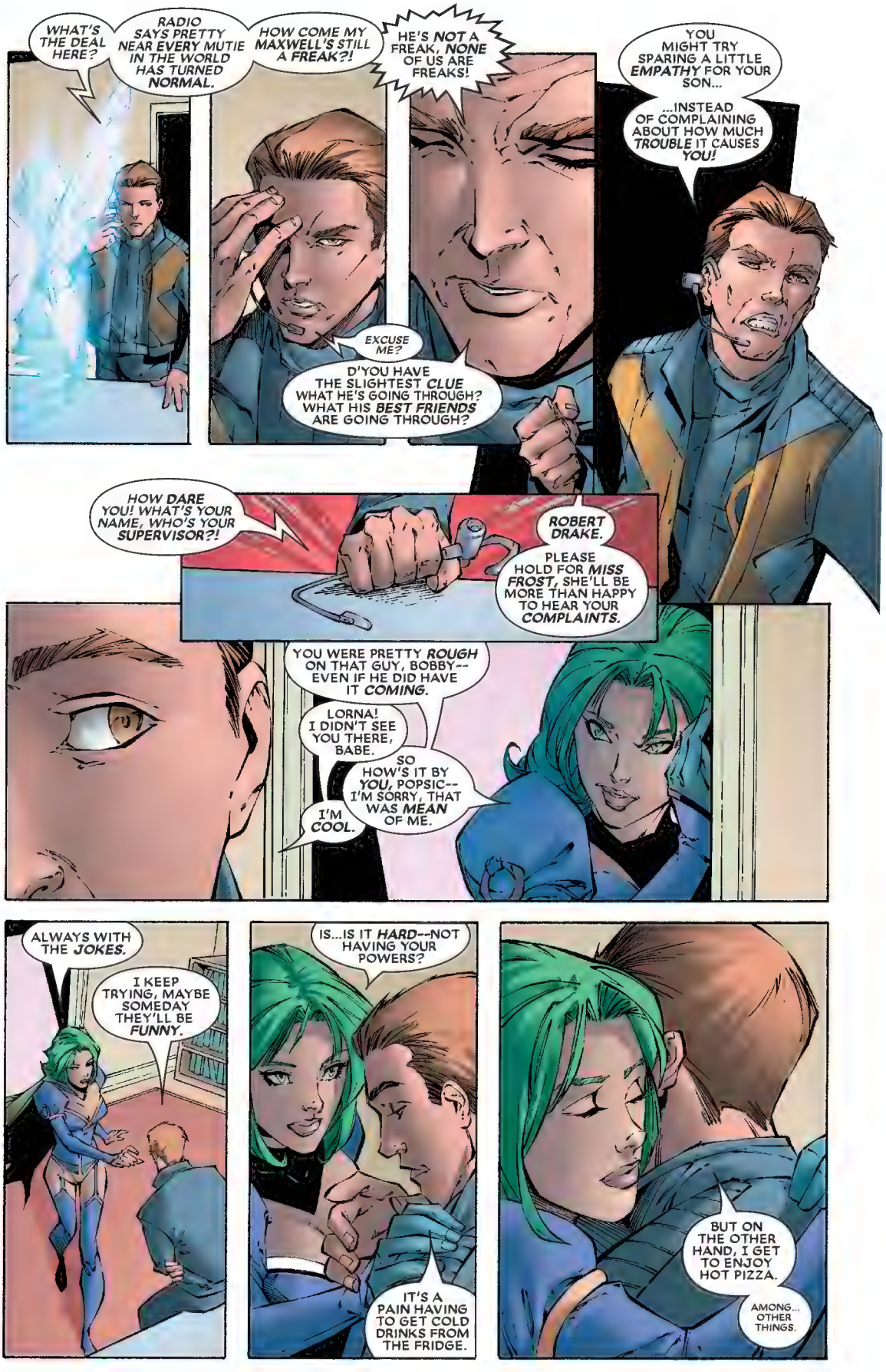

KRASH!

EMMA...

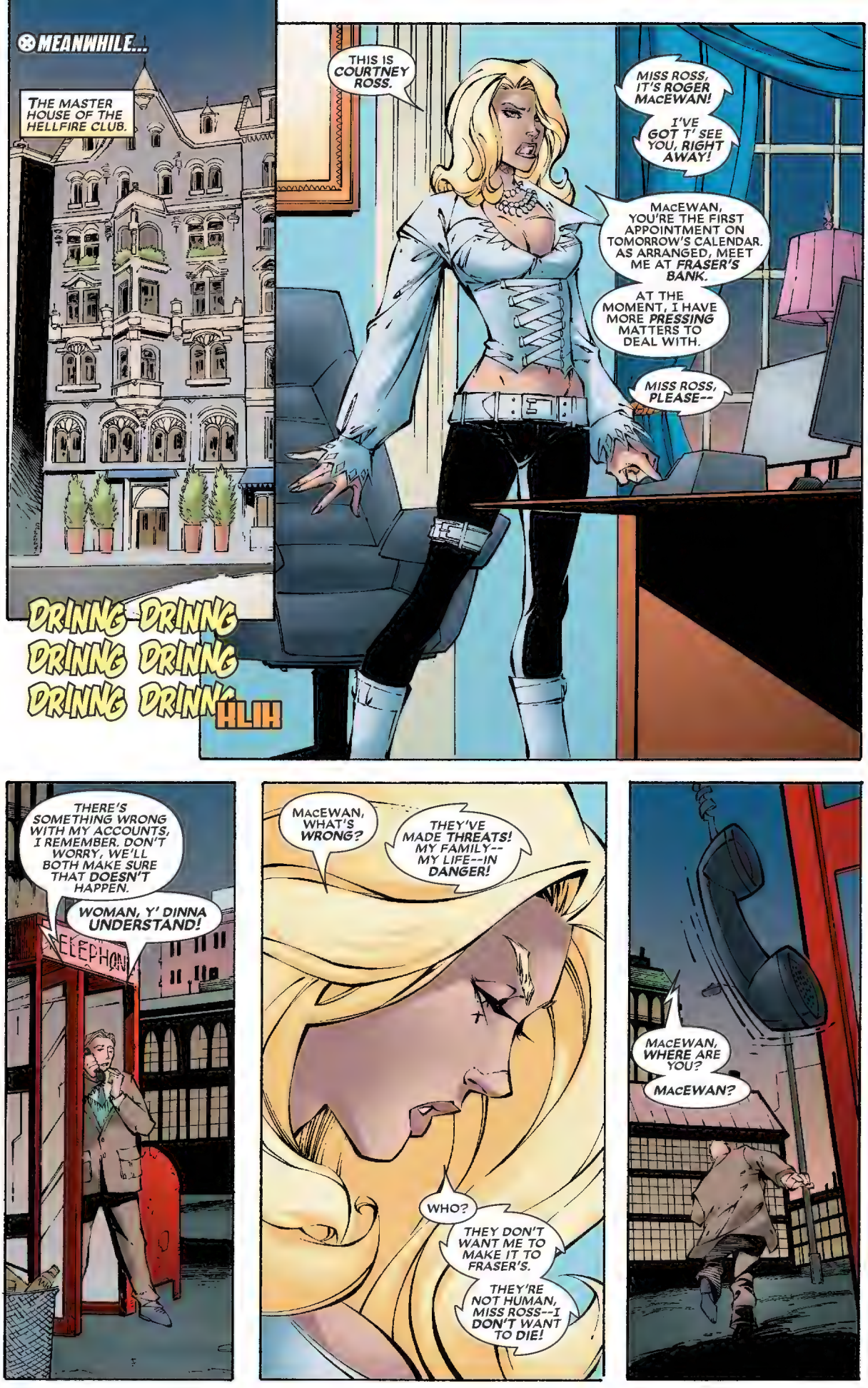
...IS IT THAT BAD?


OUR INITIAL ESTIMATE THAT 90% OF THE WORLD'S EXTANT MUTANTS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED IS PROVING TO BE...
...CONSERVATIVE.
BEFORE THE SCARLET WITCH, WE NUMBERED MILLIONS, SCOTT.
WE WERE THE RIGHTFUL INHERITORS OF THE EARTH.
RIGHT NOW-- AT BEST-- WE'RE BARELY HUNDREDS.
WE DON'T JUST QUALIFY AS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES...
...WE'RE HOVERING ON THE BRINK OF OUTRIGHT EXTINCTION.
EMMA-- WE'RE NOT DEAD YET.
ARE YOU LAUGHING AT ME, SUMMERS?
FOR THAT, WOULDN'T I NEED A SENSE OF HUMOR?
LIFE IS CHANGE, SWEETHEART. EVOLUTION. GROWTH.
I MEAN, LOOK HOW FAR YOU'VE COME FROM YOUR DAYS AS THE WHITE QUEEN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB.

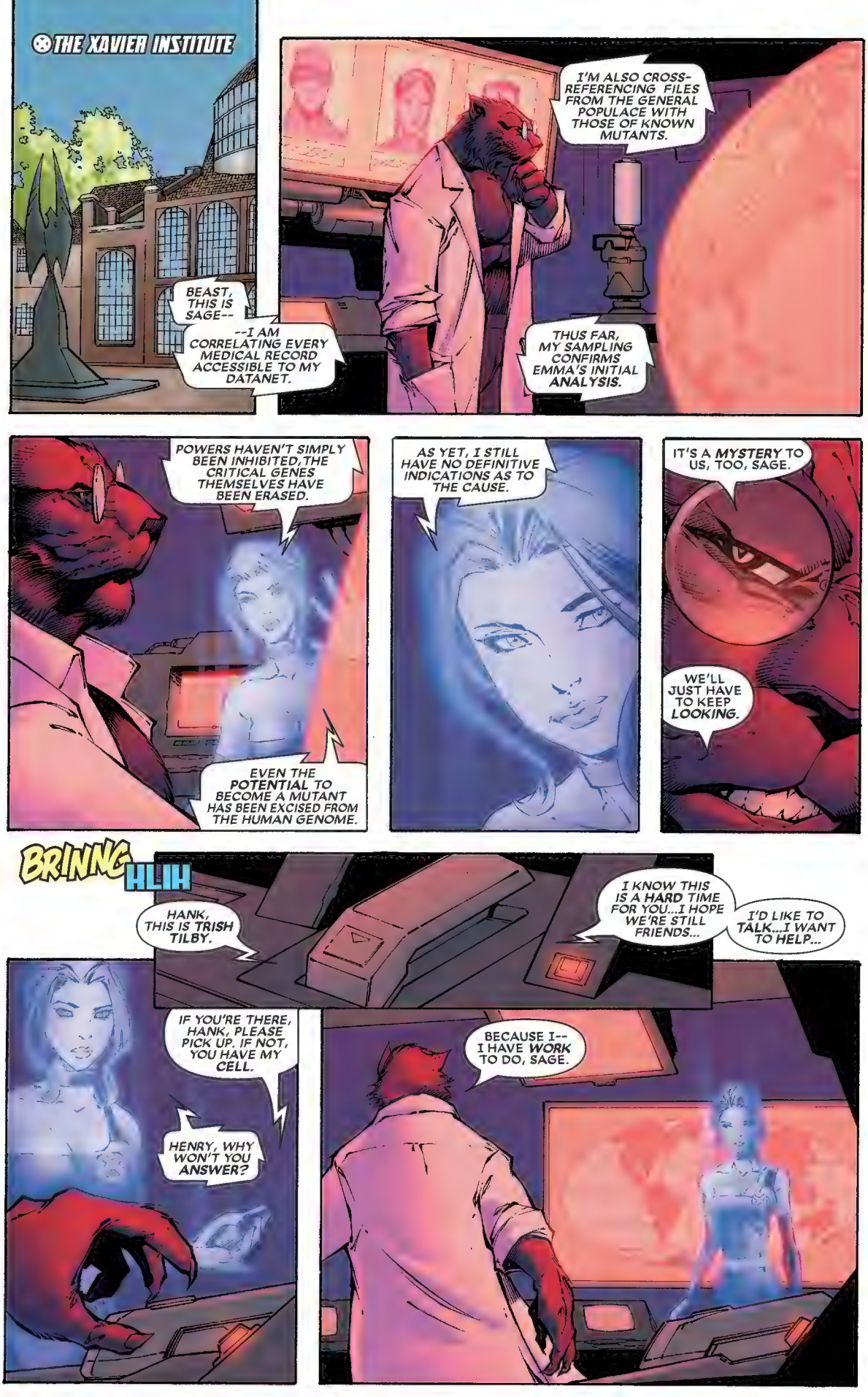

WE'RE A LOT *ALIKE*, YOU KNOW. TOO DAMN *PRIVATE* FOR OUR OWN GOOD.
THE *HARDEST* THING FOR US TO DO IS *TRUST*.
MOMENTS LIKE THIS, WHEN WE'VE BEEN HAMMERED, OUR FIRST IMPULSE IS TO DEAL WITH THE LOSS *ALONE*.
WE FORGET THAT *X-MEN* IS *PLURAL*.
WE'RE PART OF A *TEAM*.
I'LL ALWAYS BE THE *OUTSIDER*.
NEVER WITH *ME*.
HIT THEM *HARD* ENOUGH, SCOTT, HIT THEM JUST RIGHT, EVEN *DIAMONDS* SHATTER.
AND QUEENS *CONQUER*.
EMMA GRACE FROST-- YOU GONNA LET A SCARLET WITCH BEAT YOU?
NEVER.


WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE?
RADIO SAYS PRETTY NEAR EVERY MUTIE IN THE WORLD HAS TURNED NORMAL.
HOW COME MY MAXWELL'S STILL A FREAK?!
HE'S NOT A FREAK, NONE OF US ARE FREAKS!
EXCUSE ME?
D'YOU HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE WHAT HE'S GOING THROUGH? WHAT HIS BEST FRIENDS ARE GOING THROUGH?
YOU MIGHT TRY SPARING A LITTLE EMPATHY FOR YOUR SON...
...INSTEAD OF COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW MUCH TROUBLE IT CAUSES YOU!
HOW DARE YOU! WHAT'S YOUR NAME, WHO'S YOUR SUPERVISOR?!
ROBERT DRAKE.
PLEASE HOLD FOR MISS FROST, SHE'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HEAR YOUR COMPLAINTS.
YOU WERE PRETTY ROUGH ON THAT GUY, BOBBY-- EVEN IF HE DID HAVE IT COMING.
LORNA! I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE, BABE.
SO HOW'S IT BY YOU, POPSIC-- I'M SORRY, THAT WAS MEAN OF ME.
I'M COOL.
ALWAYS WITH THE JOKES.
I KEEP TRYING, MAYBE SOMEDAY THEY'LL BE FUNNY.
IS...IS IT HARD--NOT HAVING YOUR POWERS?
IT'S A PAIN HAVING TO GET COLD DRINKS FROM THE FRIDGE.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, I GET TO ENJOY HOT PIZZA.
AMONG... OTHER THINGS.

LONDON
THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF MI-13 (THE DEPARTMENT OF THE BRITISH NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENHANCED HUMAN AFFAIRS)...
ZAK ZAK ZAK
LOVE YOUR TARGETS, PETER.
WISH FULFILLMENT, CONSTANCE, MY LOVE.
WHAT'S YOUR EVALUATION?
YOU'LL BE PLEASED TO HEAR, WISDOM, THAT YOUR "HOT KNIVES" REMAIN AS FORMIDABLE A POWER AS EVER.
THAT MAKES YOU ONE OF THE FEW ENHANCED AGENTS LEFT.
AND AS A CONSEQUENCE, VERY MUCH IN DEMAND.
WHAT'S UP, FARISA?
ORDERS. YOU'RE TO BRIEF THE DIRECTOR, THE PRIME MINISTER--AND FINALLY, BUCKINGHAM PALACE.
THANK GOODNESS I WORE MY CLEAN TIE.
AND THEN YOU'RE TO FIND AND CONTACT CAPTAIN BRITAIN.
HIS COUNTRY NEEDS HIM, PETER.

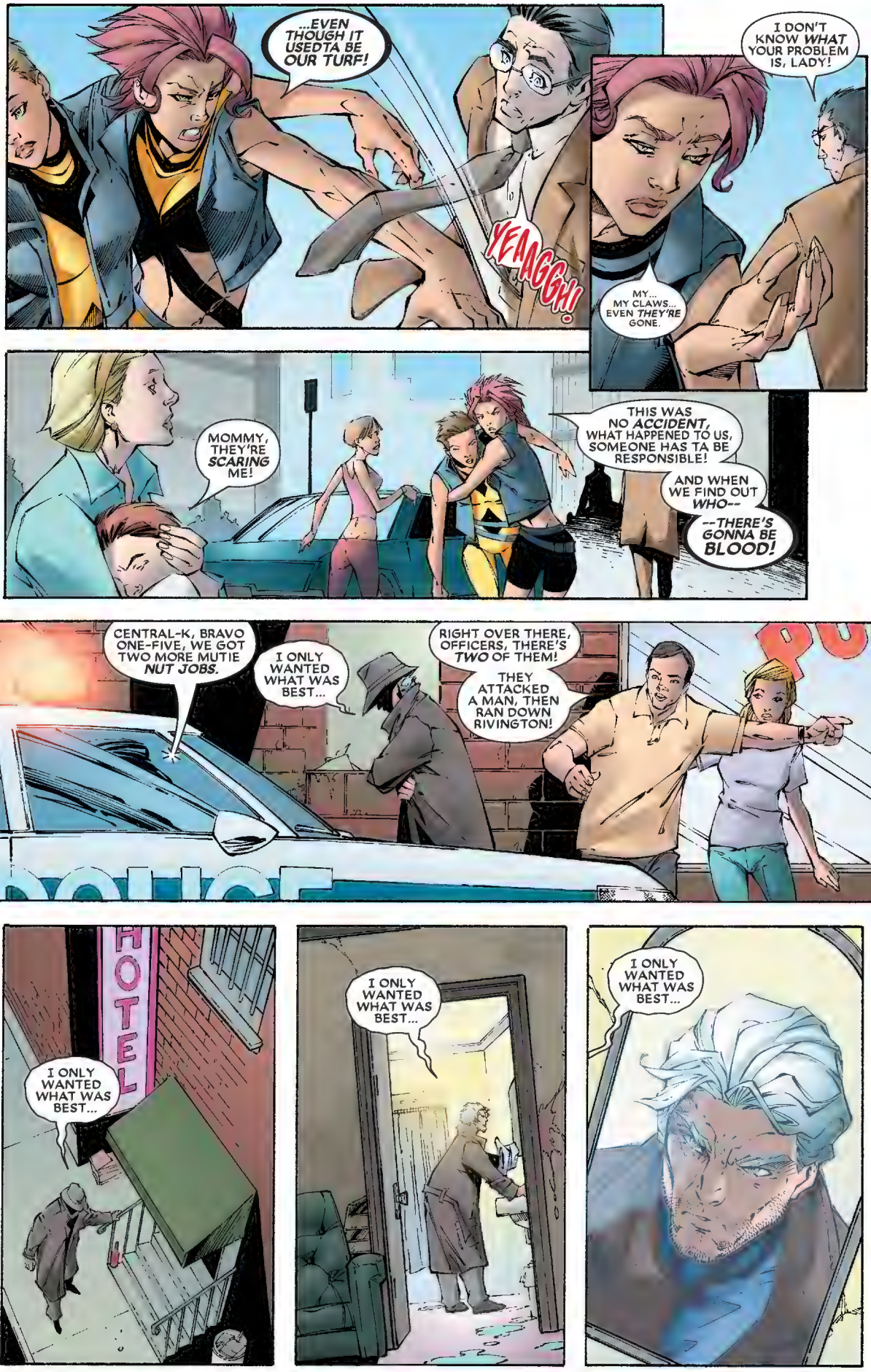

MEANWHILE...
THE MASTER HOUSE OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
DRINNG DRINNG
DRINNG DRINNG
DRINNG DRINNG
KLIH
THIS IS COURTNEY ROSS.
MISS ROSS, IT'S ROGER MACEWAN!
I'VE GOT T' SEE YOU, RIGHT AWAY!
MACEWAN, YOU'RE THE FIRST APPOINTMENT ON TOMORROW'S CALENDAR. AS ARRANGED, MEET ME AT FRASER'S BANK.
AT THE MOMENT, I HAVE MORE PRESSING MATTERS TO DEAL WITH.
MISS ROSS, PLEASE--
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY ACCOUNTS, I REMEMBER. DON'T WORRY, WE'LL BOTH MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
WOMAN, Y' DINNA UNDERSTAND!
TELEPHON
MACEWAN, WHAT'S WRONG?
THEY'VE MADE THREATS! MY FAMILY-- MY LIFE--IN DANGER!
WHO?
THEY DON'T WANT ME TO MAKE IT TO FRASER'S.
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN, MISS ROSS--I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
MACEWAN, WHERE ARE YOU?
MACEWAN?

A SECURE (AND SECRET) LOCATION...
TROOPERS, WE HAVE OUR ORDERS STRAIGHT FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THE MILITARY COMPONENT OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY IS ACTIVE.
CONSISTENT WITH OUR CHARTER AND THE NEEDS OF THIS CRISIS, YOU WILL BE DEPLOYED ACCORDINGLY.
THIS IS A MOMENT OF TRUTH IN HUMAN HISTORY.
WE MUST DEAL WITH GENETIC DEVASTATION ON A WORLDWIDE SCALE.
PEOPLE ARE SCARED, MANY LIKELY FEEL THAT THEY'VE LOST EVERYTHING.
THEY WONDER IF THIS IS AN ACT OF NATURE OR AN ATTACK. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR FUTURE HOLDS AND NO DOUBT FEAR...
...THIS IS BUT A PRELUDE TO SOMETHING WORSE.
WE ARE THE ONLY FORCE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND PROBABLY THE WORLD, TRAINED AND EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH SUCH AN EMERGENCY.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT MUTANTS. TAKE MY WORD, YOU ARE A MATCH FOR THEM AND MORE.
THE FATE OF OUR NATION, OF OUR VERY SPECIES, HANGS IN THE BALANCE.
"YOUR ACTIONS WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.
"MAKE AMERICA PROUD."


THE XAVIER INSTITUTE
BEAST, THIS IS SAGE--
--I AM CORRELATING EVERY MEDICAL RECORD ACCESSIBLE TO MY DATANET.
I'M ALSO CROSS-REFERENCING FILES FROM THE GENERAL POPULACE WITH THOSE OF KNOWN MUTANTS.
THUS FAR, MY SAMPLING CONFIRMS EMMA'S INITIAL ANALYSIS.
POWERS HAVEN'T SIMPLY BEEN INHIBITED, THE CRITICAL GENES THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN ERASED.
EVEN THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A MUTANT HAS BEEN EXCISED FROM THE HUMAN GENOME.
AS YET, I STILL HAVE NO DEFINITIVE INDICATIONS AS TO THE CAUSE.
IT'S A MYSTERY TO US, TOO, SAGE.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP LOOKING.
BRINNG HLIH
HANK, THIS IS TRISH TILBY.
I KNOW THIS IS A HARD TIME FOR YOU...I HOPE WE'RE STILL FRIENDS...
I'D LIKE TO TALK...I WANT TO HELP...
IF YOU'RE THERE, HANK, PLEASE PICK UP. IF NOT, YOU HAVE MY CELL.
HENRY, WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER?
BECAUSE I-- I HAVE WORK TO DO, SAGE.

HOW SOON CAN YOU BE BACK HERE, STORM?
ACTUALLY, SCOTT, I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU TO SEND MY TEAM TO JOIN ME.
IN AFRICA?
YOU'RE AN X-MAN, YOUR PLACE IS HERE.
SINCE WHEN ARE OUR CONCERNS SO PAROCHIAL?
THIS EVENT IS GLOBAL, THE NEED IS JUST AS GREAT ON MY NATIVE CONTINENT...
...AND THE PROPER RESOURCES, ALMOST NON-EXISTENT.
I'M SORRY, SCOTT. PERHAPS IT'S SELFISH, BUT MY OWN LIFE HAS BEEN IN SUCH TURMOIL LATELY, I FEEL A NEED TO REGAIN SOME PERSPECTIVE.
ALSO, WOULDN'T IT BE WISER TO DISPERSE OUR ASSETS?
COLLECTING ALL THE ACTIVE X-MEN IN ONE PLACE ALMOST INVITES DISASTER.
A CALCULATED RISK.
I DISAGREE. IF THERE ARE TRULY ONLY A HANDFUL OF X-MEN LEFT, WE CAN'T SIMPLY HUNKER DOWN IN WESTCHESTER AND WAIT FOR CRISES TO COME TO US.
WE HAVE TO BECOME PRO-ACTIVE.
IT'S MY CALL.
AND THAT IS WHY I THINK IT'S BETTER THAT I STAY AWAY.
THE TEAM NEEDS CONFIDENCE IN ITS LEADERS.
RIGHT NOW, ABOUT MANY THINGS, YOU AND EMMA AND I DISAGREE.
WE'LL MISS YOU.
YOU KNOW HOW TO REACH ME IF THERE'S NEED.
TAKE CARE, MY FRIEND.

MANHATTAN
THE DELANCEY STREET STOP ON THE "F" TRAIN.
I ONLY WANTED WHAT WAS BEST.
'COURSE YA DID, SWEETIE, HERE YA GO.
KA-CHINK!
I ONLY WANTED WHAT WAS BEST.
GOT'CHER BUCK, MAN!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
I ONLY WANTED WHAT WAS BEST.
MOMMY, THAT GUY REEKS!
SHUSH, HONEY, BE QUIET.
LET'S JUST GET AWAY FROM HIM--OH MY!
OH, NO-- IT'S ONE OF THEM!
WHA'CHU STARIN' AT, LADY?!
ENJOYIN' THE SHOW, GENEJOKES?
THINK IT'S FUNNY, HUH, A BILLION LAUGHS!
LOOK AT THE FREAKS THAT USEDTA BE MUTANTS, THAT USEDTA BE SOMEBODY, THAT USEDTA BE X-CORP!
AIN'T IT GREAT, HOW THEM HIGH-'N'-MIGHTY HEROES LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN?
DESIREE
WHERE WE GOIN', LUCIA?
FAR FROM HERE, MARIA. IT AIN'T SAFE IN MUTANT TOWN NO MORE...


...EVEN THOUGH IT USEDTA BE OUR TURF!
YEAAGGH!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, LADY!
MY... MY CLAWS... EVEN THEY'RE GONE.
MOMMY, THEY'RE SCARING ME!
THIS WAS NO ACCIDENT, WHAT HAPPENED TO US, SOMEONE HAS TA BE RESPONSIBLE!
AND WHEN WE FIND OUT WHO--
--THERE'S GONNA BE BLOOD!
CENTRAL-K, BRAVO ONE-FIVE, WE GOT TWO MORE MUTIE NUT JOBS.
I ONLY WANTED WHAT WAS BEST...
RIGHT OVER THERE, OFFICERS, THERE'S TWO OF THEM!
THEY ATTACKED A MAN, THEN RAN DOWN RIVINGTON!
POLICE
HOTEL
I ONLY WANTED WHAT WAS BEST...
I ONLY WANTED WHAT WAS BEST...
I ONLY WANTED WHAT WAS BEST...

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
A GALLERIA MALL, NOW BANKRUPT AND CONDEMNED.
"HERE SHE COMES--THE ONE, THE ONLY, THE UNBELIEVABLY LARGER-THAN-LIFE...
"Jubilation Lee!
"WATCH HER RIDE THE BOARD LIKE IT'S PART OF HER!
"SEE THE RENT-A-COPS FALL ON THEIR FAT, FLAT FACES TRYING TO CATCH HER.
"LISTEN TO THE CROWD CHEER AS SHE PUTS ON A FIREWORKS DISPLAY...
"...THAT PUTS THE FOURTH OF JULY TO SHAME!
"YUP ...THOSE WERE THE DAYS, MY FRIEND."
THE ONES I THOUGHT WOULD NEVER END.

THEN +POOF!+ FINITO.
END OF STORY.
I SHOULD CALL...
BUT WHAT DO I SAY?
GROW UP, LITTLE GIRL.

THE XAVIER INSTITUTE
'BYE, CESSILY!
I'LL TEXT MY URL!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO LEAVE!
I WANT MY STUFF!
DIDJA HEAR, THEY FIRED MISS MOONSTAR!
FROST BITES!
I'M GLAD I'M GOING HOME.
THE X-MEN COULDN'T WAIT TO GET RID OF US.
THEY'RE DOING WHAT THEY THINK BEST, SON.
TEACHERS ARE S'POSED TO CARE.
NOW THAT WE DON'T HAVE POWERS, WE DON'T MATTER.
THIS MAY BE THE RIGHT DECISION.
BUT IT'S A MISTAKE.
HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE LEFT, LOGAN?
NOT A LOT. THIRTY, MAYBE.
Y'KNOW, PETEY-- MAGNETO, APOCALYPSE, SINISTER, SUBLIME, EVEN CASSANDRA NOVA--AT THEIR WORST, NONE OF 'EM EVER HURT US AS BADLY AS THIS.
SNIKT!
WHAT IS WRONG, TOVARISCH?
JUST FEELIN' MY AGE.
USEDTA BE, MY LIFE WAS A MYSTERY. WHAT I WANTED MORE'N ANY-THING, WAS T' KNOW WHAT I MISSED.
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.
YUP.
SNAKT!
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I SKETCHED YOU...
SOME OTHER TIME.
I BROUGHT BEER.
WHAT THE HELL.

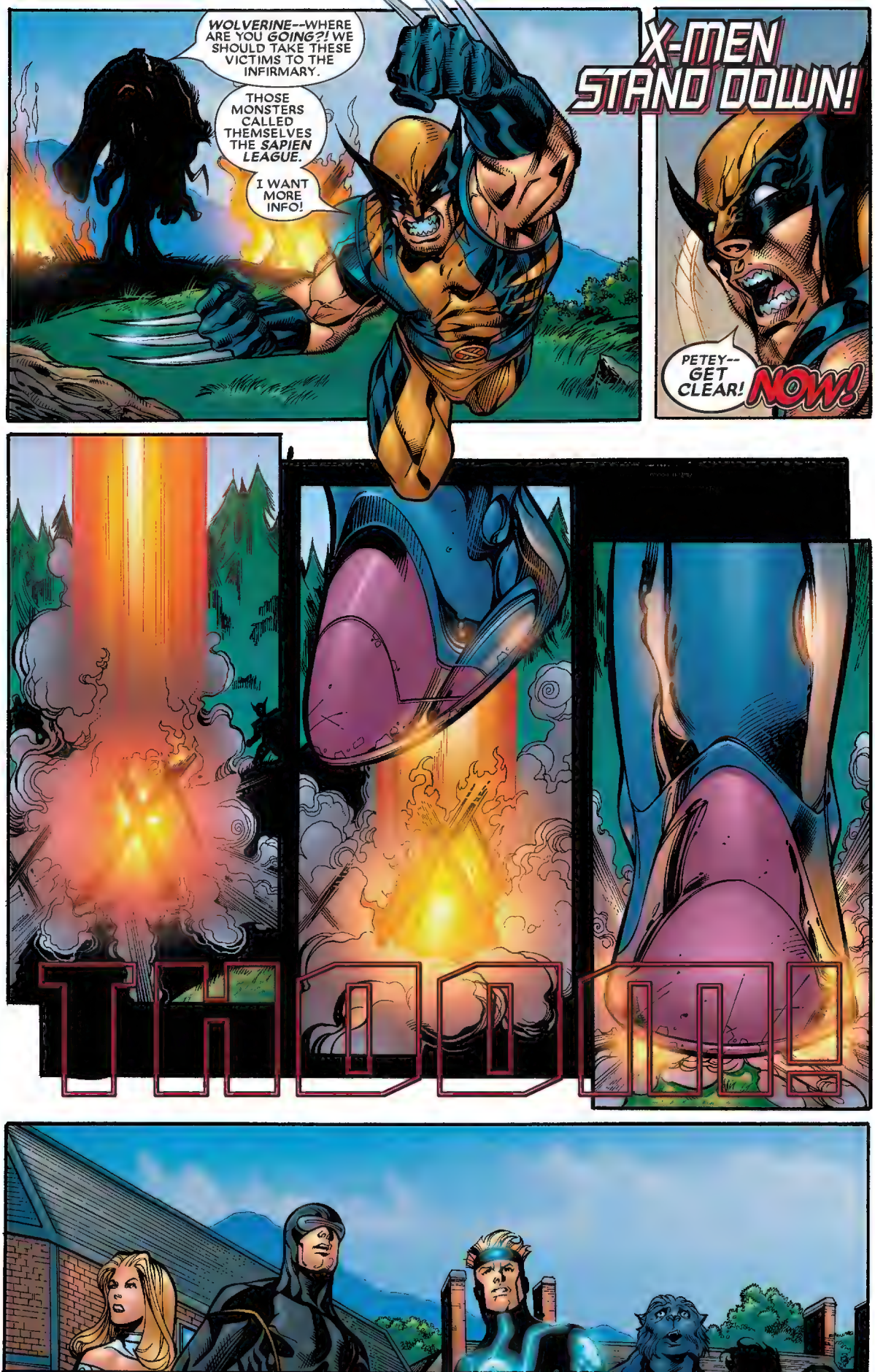
SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I'VE BEEN GONE. I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN STANDING STILL.
YOU AN' PSYLOCKE BOTH, BACK FROM THE DEAD. EVER THINK TO COMPARE NOTES?
FOR HER, THAT TRANSITION WAS INSTANTANEOUS.
FOR ME...DAY AFTER ENDLESS DAY OF TORMENT.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE COPING.
TELL ME, LOGAN, WHY AM I ALIVE AND NOT MY SISTER?
WHY DO I HAVE MY POWERS, WHEN SO MANY OTHERS HAVE LOST THEIRS?
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
OUR CAUSE SEEMED SO SIMPLE WHEN PROFESSOR XAVIER EXPLAINED IT. AND SO... JUST.
GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS, WHO CAN ARGUE WITH THAT?
I REMEMBER WHEN WE FOUGHT PROTEUS, WHO COULD TURN THE WORLD TO CLAY AND TWIST IT AS HE PLEASED. WE FOUND A WAY TO WIN. I FOUND A WAY TO DESTROY HIM.
WHAT'S YER POINT?
I WANT TO HIT SOMEONE. I WANT TO FIGHT.
BUT HOW CAN YOU FIGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
SOME THINGS HAVE TO BE TAKEN ON FAITH.
AND WHEN THAT FAITH IS LOST?
STILL WORKIN' ON THAT ONE.
BLAM!

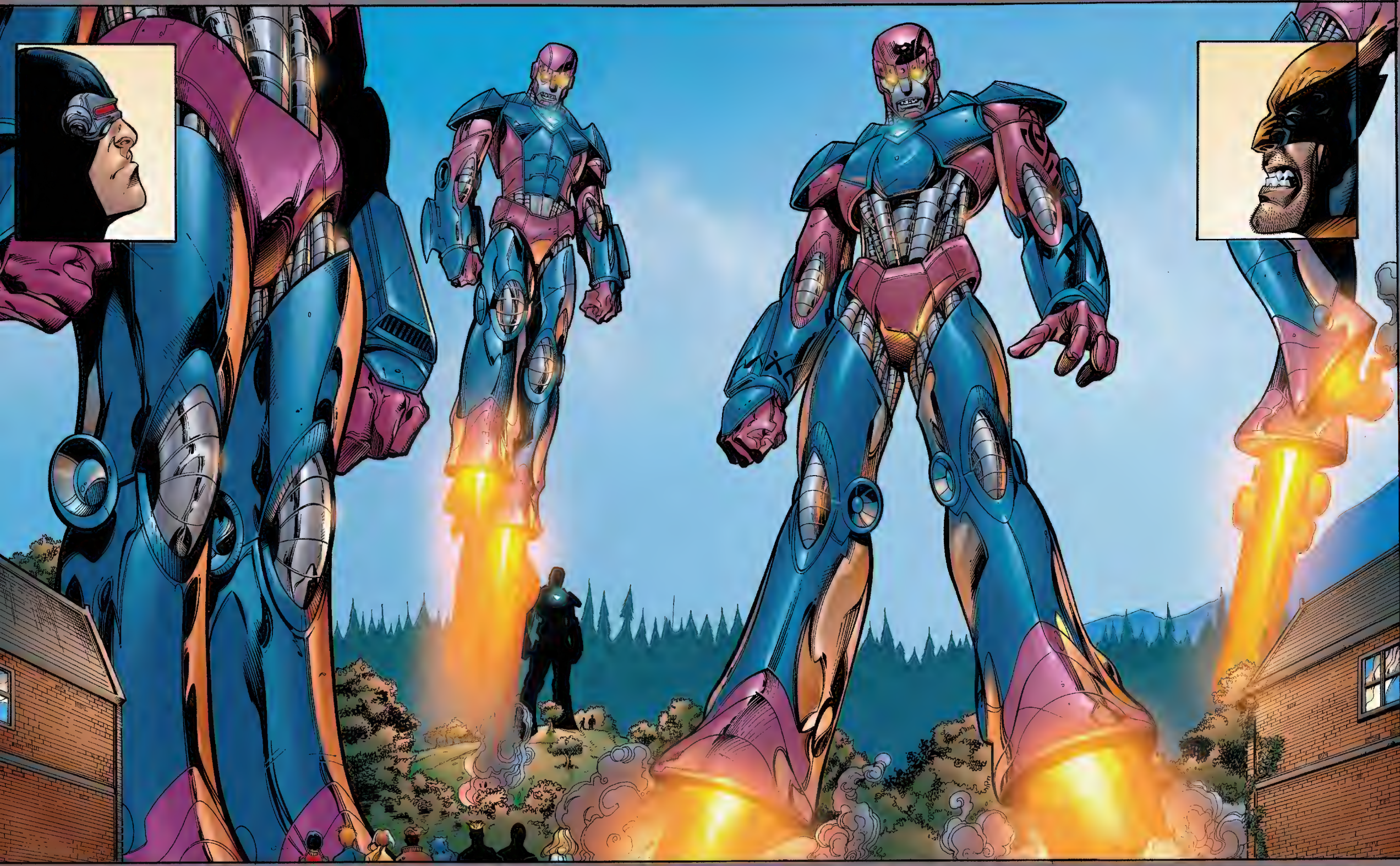
LOGAN, WAS THAT GUNFIRE?
COLOSSUS-- I THINK YOU JUST GOT YOUR WISH.
THERE'S XAVIER'S SCHOOL!
QUICK! LET'S GO!
ARE THEY FRIEND OR FOE?
WHO CARES?
HOME STRETCH, YOU GUYS!
BUT, MAMMOMAX-- THE X-MEN HATE US--YES, YES?
THEY'RE HEROES, PEEPERS-- THEY SAID THEY'D PROTECT--!
BLAMM!

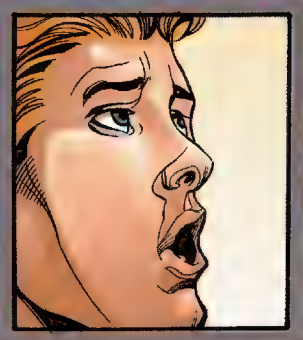
SAPIENS...USIN' ARTILLERY!
ZZZRAP!
THE SHOCK GRENADE PUT 'EM DOWN, BOSS.
AND THE TASER TOOK 'EM OUT!
KILL 'EM NOW, GRADY, WHILE THEY'RE HELPLESS.
YOU SURE, BOSS? RIGHT ON THE DOORSTEP OF MUTIE CENTRAL?!
THE SAPIEN LEAGUE IS SERVING NOTICE...
...THAT HUMANITY'S HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH THESE ABOMINATIONS!
THIS IS OUR WORLD--
--AN' WE'RE NOT IN THE MOOD TO SHARE.
SKRITCH!
HEY, DIDN'T YOU MOOKS SEE THE SIGNS?
THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY.

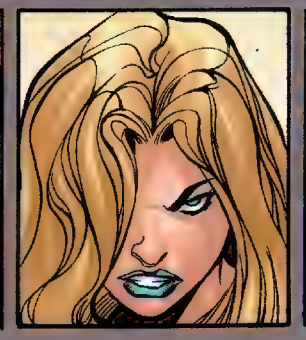
NO TRESPASSING!
KILL THE MUTIES!
PLINKA PLINKA PLINKA
OKAY, WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO STOP YOU--
--BUT YOU CAN'T STOP US FROM DOIN' OUR JOB!
FWEEHH!
YAUGH!

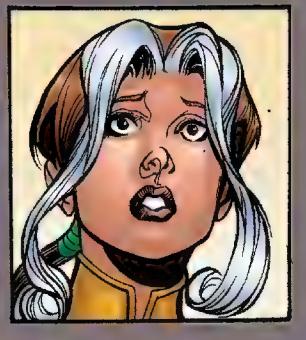
ONE OF YER PRISONERS IS A *PAL* O' MINE, BUB.
AND I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO--
FZZT!
YERRGGH!
ENHANCED *TASER*.
LETHAL ENOUGH TO STOP A CHARGIN' *RHINO*.
MY *HEALING FACTOR* CAN HANDLE THE HIT.
BUT IT STILL FLAMIN' *HURTS!*
SLASH!
I DO NOT LIKE *GUNS*.
AND I LIKE *MUTANT-HATING TRASH* EVEN LESS.
KRUNCH!
RETREAT!
COME ON! FIND COVER IN THE WOODS!


WOLVERINE--WHERE ARE YOU GOING?! WE SHOULD TAKE THESE VICTIMS TO THE INFIRMARY.
THOSE MONSTERS CALLED THEMSELVES THE SAPIEN LEAGUE.
I WANT MORE INFO!
X-MEN STAND DOWN!
PETEY--GET CLEAR! NOW!
THOOM!









GIANT-SIZE MS. MARVEL #1

DEEEET!
DEEEET!
DEEEET!
WHERE AM I?
DEEEET!
DEEEET!
IT LOOKS LIKE MY APARTMENT.
BUT THIS...THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE NEW YORK.

I MEAN, IT OBVIOUSLY *IS* NEW YORK, THERE'S NO DENYING THAT.

BUT YESTERDAY, THE WORLD *WASN'T* LIKE THIS.

IT WAS *NOTHING* LIKE THIS.

YESTERDAY, THERE WAS THE HOUSE OF M

DKNY JEANS

DKNY.

YESTERDAY, THERE WAS A HELICARRIER IN THE SKY.

THERE WERE BANNERS FOR THE HOUSE OF M. THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS.

MUTANTS RULED THE WORLD. THEY WERE IN THE SKY AND ON THE GROUND AND ON TV AND I--

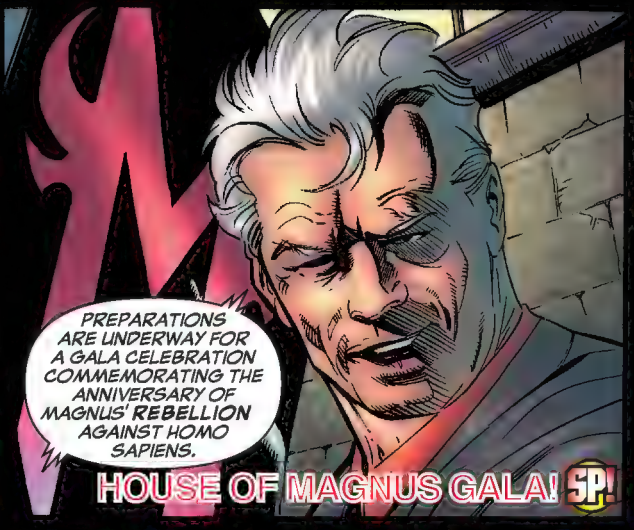
--I MEAN, I WAS STILL ME--CAROL DANVERS--BUT NO LONGER KNOWN AS **MS. MARVEL**

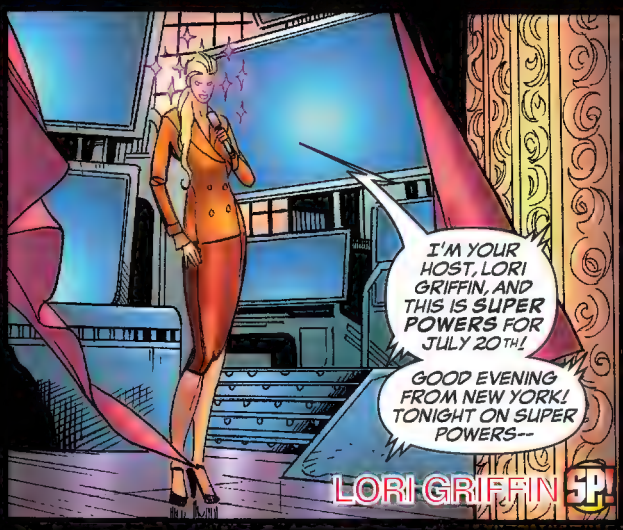
I WENT BY THE NAME *CAPTAIN MARVEL* AND--AND--

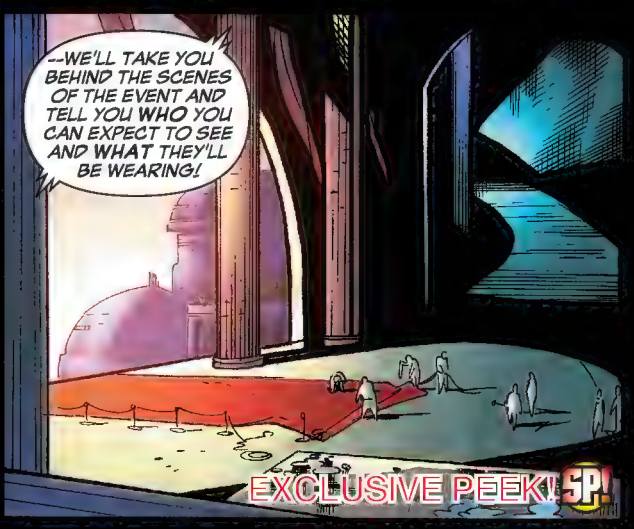
THE MAN WHO PUTS THE "M" IN "HOUSE OF M," **ERIC MAGNUS**, WILL BE THE *CENTER OF ATTENTION* THIS WEEKEND!

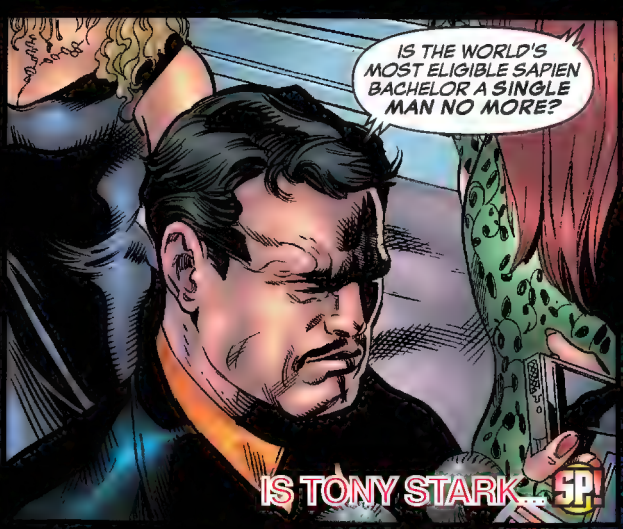
IN A BRILLIANT FLASH OF LIGHT, CAROL DANVERS WAS TRANSFORMED BY THE ALIEN KREE EMPIRE'S DNA-ALTERING TECHNOLOGY, BECOMING THE MAGNIFICENT MS. MARVEL

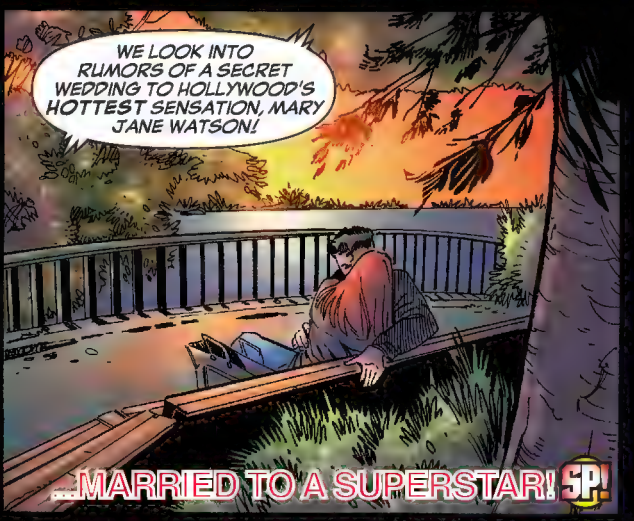
MOMENT OF Clarity


PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A GALA CELEBRATION COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF MAGNUS' REBELLION AGAINST HOMO SAPIENS.
HOUSE OF MAGNUS GALA! SP!

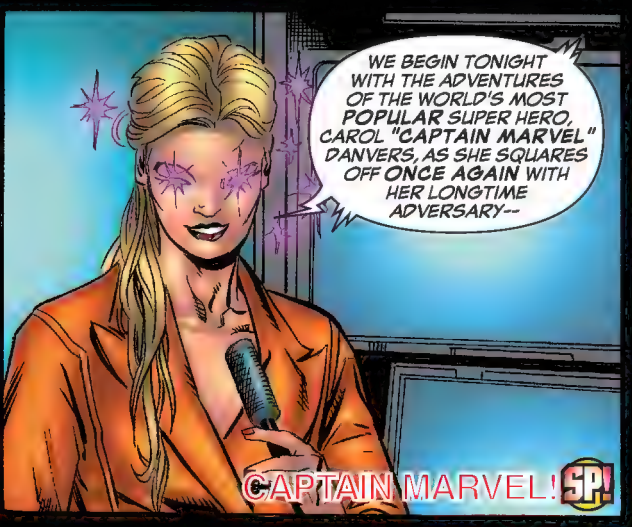

I'M YOUR HOST, LORI GRIFFIN, AND THIS IS SUPER POWERS FOR JULY 20TH!
GOOD EVENING FROM NEW YORK! TONIGHT ON SUPER POWERS--
LORI GRIFFIN SP!


--WE'LL TAKE YOU BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE EVENT AND TELL YOU WHO YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE AND WHAT THEY'LL BE WEARING!
EXCLUSIVE PEEK! SP!

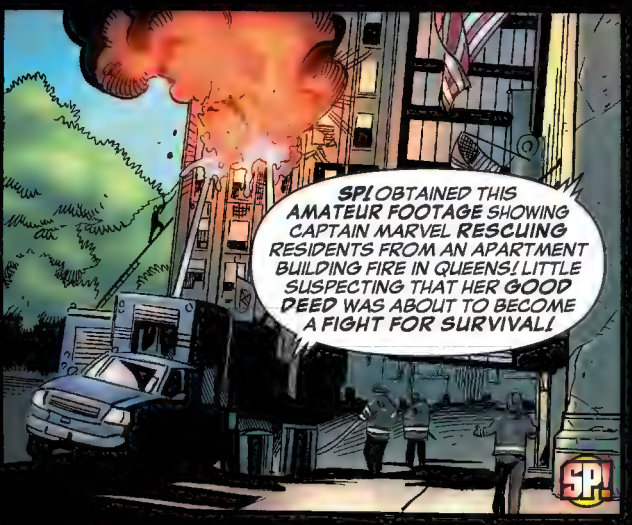

IS THE WORLD'S MOST ELIGIBLE SAPIEN BACHELOR A SINGLE MAN NO MORE?
IS TONY STARK... SP!


WE LOOK INTO RUMORS OF A SECRET WEDDING TO HOLLYWOOD'S HOTTEST SENSATION, MARY JANE WATSON!
...MARRIED TO A SUPERSTAR! SP!

FROM THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS, THIS IS YOUR SOURCE FOR ALL THE MUTANT NEWS AND VIEWS: SUPER POWERS!
SP!


WE BEGIN TONIGHT WITH THE ADVENTURES OF THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR SUPER HERO, CAROL "CAPTAIN MARVEL" DANVERS, AS SHE SQUARES OFF ONCE AGAIN WITH HER LONGTIME ADVERSARY--
CAPTAIN MARVEL!
SP!

--SIR WARREN TRAVELER, WHO ONCE SERVED AS THE KING OF ENGLAND'S SORCERER SUPREME, AND HAS LONG HAD IT IN FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL!
880 1980 NYCPD
10 23 05
SIR WARREN TRAVELER!
SP!


SP! OBTAINED THIS AMATEUR FOOTAGE SHOWING CAPTAIN MARVEL RESCUING RESIDENTS FROM AN APARTMENT BUILDING FIRE IN QUEENS! LITTLE SUSPECTING THAT HER GOOD DEED WAS ABOUT TO BECOME A FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL!
SP!

THERE YA GO, KIDS.
SP!

THAT'S WHEN TRAVELER APPEARED ON THE SCENE!
SHHHROMP!
SP!

MARVEL!
SP!

TRAVELER?!

HAHA! SURPRISED, MY DEAR?

YOU COULDN'T *HELP* BUT BE SURPRISED WHEN TRAVELER SHOWED UP.

THE GUY WAS A SORCERER SUPREME AND HE HAD INCREDIBLE POWER AT HIS COMMAND.

I TRULY BELIEVE HE COULD HAVE DONE *GREAT THINGS* IF HE WANTED.

SHHHROMP!

NUNC PRO TUNC!

BUT WHAT HE SEEMED TO ENJOY DOING *MOST* WAS *SUCKER PUNCHING* ME.

ONE OF HIS SPELLS ALLOWED HIM TO JUMP AROUND IN *TIME*-- A FEW *SECONDS, FORWARD* OR *BACK* WITH EACH JUMP.

YOU NEVER KNEW *WHEN* YOU'D SEE HIM NEXT.

BA-DOW!

OR, WORSE, IF YOU *ALREADY HAD* SEEN HIM *NEXT*.

WHICH IS THE KIND OF THING THAT CAN MAKE YOUR *BRAIN HURT* IF YOU TRY TO THINK ABOUT IT FOR TOO LONG.

SILLY *GIRL!*

NUNC PRO TUNC!

HE SOUNDS LIKE SUCH A TOOL, ALL THOSE SPELLS HE SAYS--

SHHHROMP!

WHILE I ADMIRE YOUR *ENTHUSIASM*--

NUNC PRO TUNC!

SHHHROMP!

SHHHROMP!

--THIS TIME I AM *NOT* TOYING WITH YOU!

...IT'S HARD TO TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY. THAT IS...

...UNTIL HE STARTS KICKING THE CRAP OUT OF YOU...

THIS TIME, I AM HERE TO *FINISH* YOU!

AJDAHA-YŌLAN!

...AND A MAGIC DRAGON TRIES TO EAT YOUR HEAD...

I AM PREPARING FOR A RATHER IMPORTANT PROJECT.
AND THE ONLY VARIABLE I CAN FORESEE THAT WOULD HINDER MY SUCCESS IS YOU, MY DEAR CAPTAIN!
SO, RATHER THAN PLAN AROUND YOU, I DECIDED TO JUST KILL YOU!
KHUD!
TERRIBLY CLEVER IDEA, REALLY. SHOULD HAVE DONE IT YEARS AGO.
GRROOOOFFFF!
DO NOT DIE YET, LITTLE ONE.
I AM NOT DONE WITH YOU.
TARU TESHUB!
I--

I HAVE THIS SUPER POWER, SEE, THAT ABSORBS ENERGY. ALL SORTS OF ENERGY.
UNFORTUNATELY I CAN'T ABSORB MAGIC.
GYAAHH!!
WHICH IS TOO BAD, REALLY.
BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DAMNED HANDY IF I COULD.
=MROWR?=
HELLO, KITTY.
=PBTTT=
KITTY, YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY SUPER POWERS, WOULD YOU?
BECAUSE I COULD REALLY USE SOME HELP HERE.
I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS, CAROL. DREAMT OF IT. SEARING THE FLESH FROM YOUR BONES AND--
YOUR BIG PLAN IS TO TALK ME TO DEATH? I WAS HOPING MAYBE YOU HAD A KILLER SPELL OR SOMETHING.
OH, I DO. I DO...

FACULTAS IOWER MENIT!
YOU HELP ME OUT, KITTY, AND I WILL BUY YOU A POUND OF THE FINEST TUNA I CAN FIND.
DEAL?
MWRARRRR!
MWRARRRR!
GYAAAHHH!
SCHWIICAA!
GET IT OFF! GET IT! OFF!
NUNC PRO TUNC!
GAAAHH!

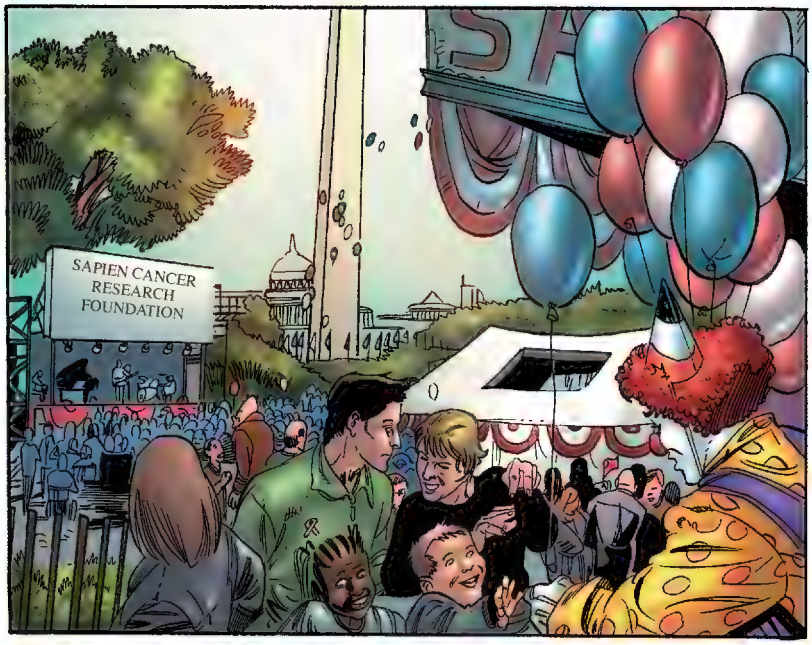
SHHHROMP!
KITTY? WHERE DID YOU GO? KITTY?!
THAT GUY STOLE MY SIDEKICK!
SON OF A--
CAPTAIN MARVEL! YOU'RE ALIVE!
KKRKASHHCK
KKRKASHHCK
HANG ON. ANY SECOND NOW...AND TRAVELER WILL POP RIGHT BACK UP.
ANNNNYYY SECOND...
OKAY. MAYBE HE REALLY IS--
CAPTAIN MARVEL!
AH! THOUGHT YOU'D SURPRISE ME, DIDN'T... YOU...
NO?
YOU ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN?
WHEW. I'M GOOD.

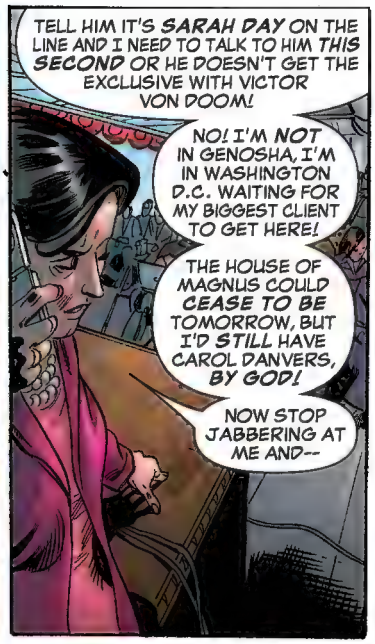
SORRY ABOUT THAT, WITH TRAVELER AND ALL. I MEANT TO BE MORE HELP THAN I WAS.
ARE YOU KIDDING?! YOU WERE *PLENTY* HELP!
WE *NEVER* WOULD HAVE GOTTEN EVERYONE OUT IN TIME IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU.
AND YOU PUT ON A SHOW KICKING THAT TRAVELER GUY'S BUTT?
THAT'S A GOOD DAY'S WORK IN *MY* BOOK!
YEAH, YOU ROCK!
EVERYBODY GIVE IT UP FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL!
CAPTAIN! MARVEL!

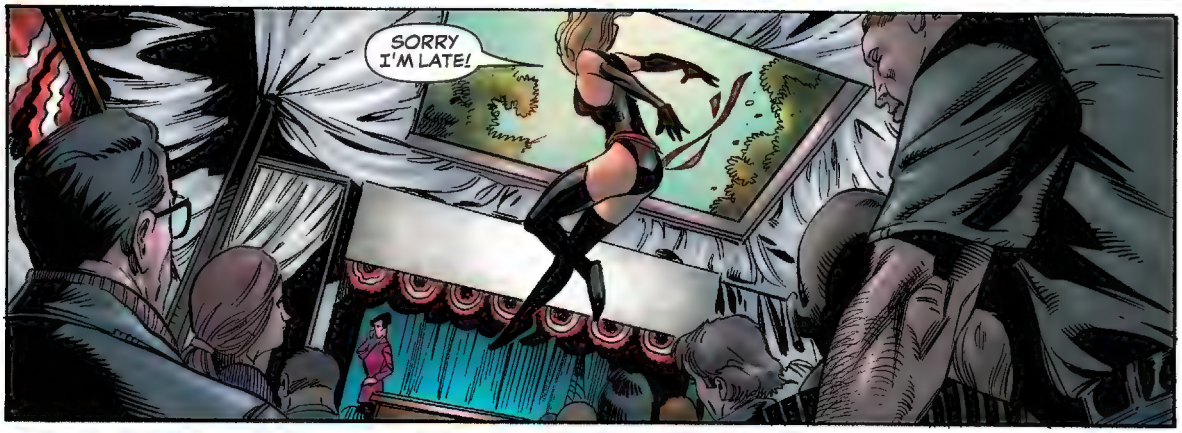
CAPTAIN! MARVEL!
CAPTAIN! MARVEL!
CAPTAIN! MARVEL!
CAPTAIN! MARVEL!
CAPTAIN! MARVEL!
CAPTAIN! MARVEL!

OH MY-- WHAT TIME IS IT?!
QUARTER TILL ONE. WHY?

I'M LATE FOR AN APPOINTMENT! I'M SO SORRY, I'VE GOT TO GO!


SAPIEN CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION


TELL HIM IT'S SARAH DAY ON THE LINE AND I NEED TO TALK TO HIM THIS SECOND OR HE DOESN'T GET THE EXCLUSIVE WITH VICTOR VON DOOM!
NO! I'M NOT IN GENOSHA, I'M IN WASHINGTON D.C. WAITING FOR MY BIGGEST CLIENT TO GET HERE!
THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS COULD CEASE TO BE TOMORROW, BUT I'D STILL HAVE CAROL DANVERS, BY GOD!
NOW STOP JABBERING AT ME AND--

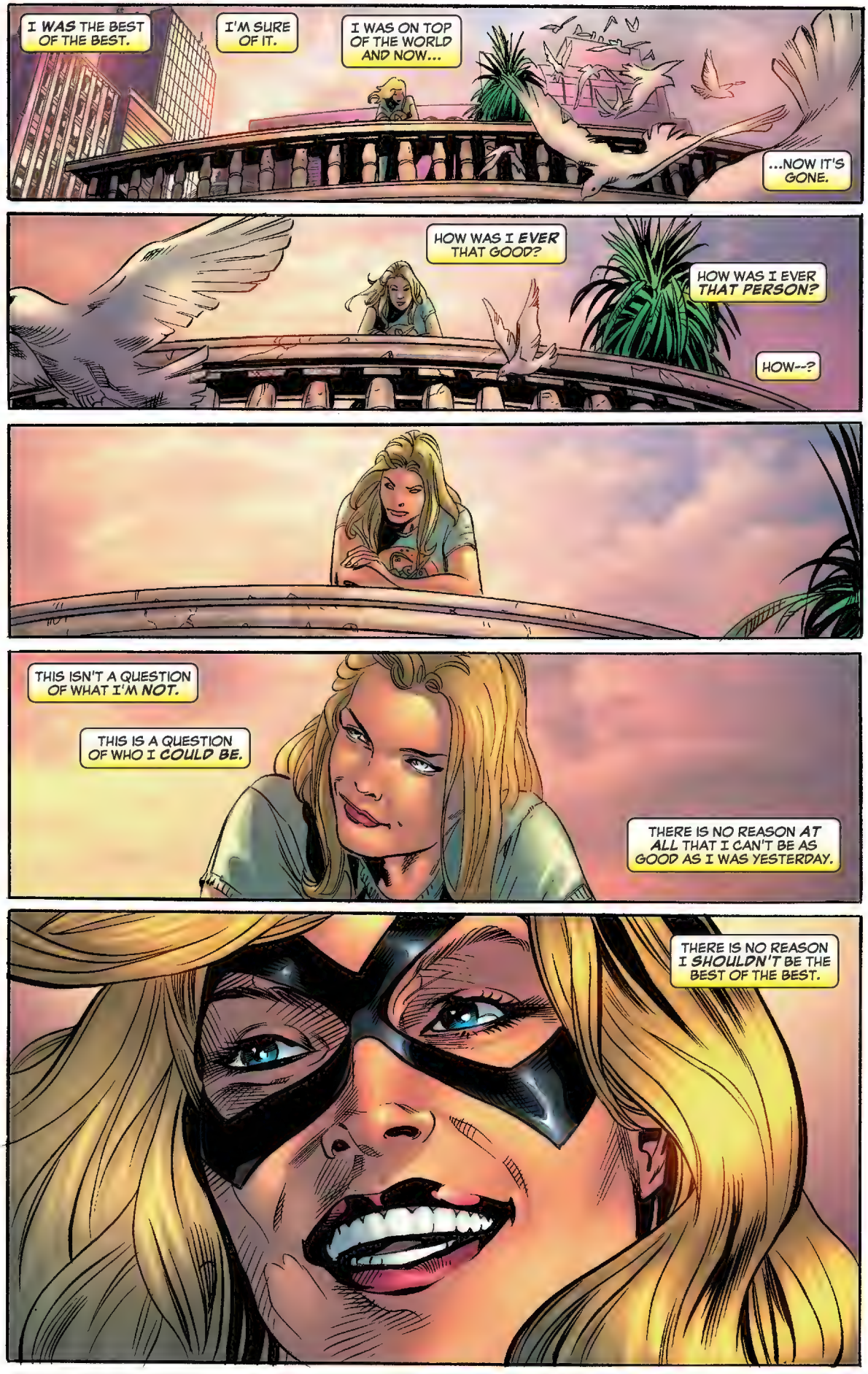

SORRY I'M LATE!

DEET!
CAROL! YOU CAN NEVER BE LATE WHEN AN EVENT CAN'T START WITHOUT YOU!
OH MY! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
WARREN TRAVELER.

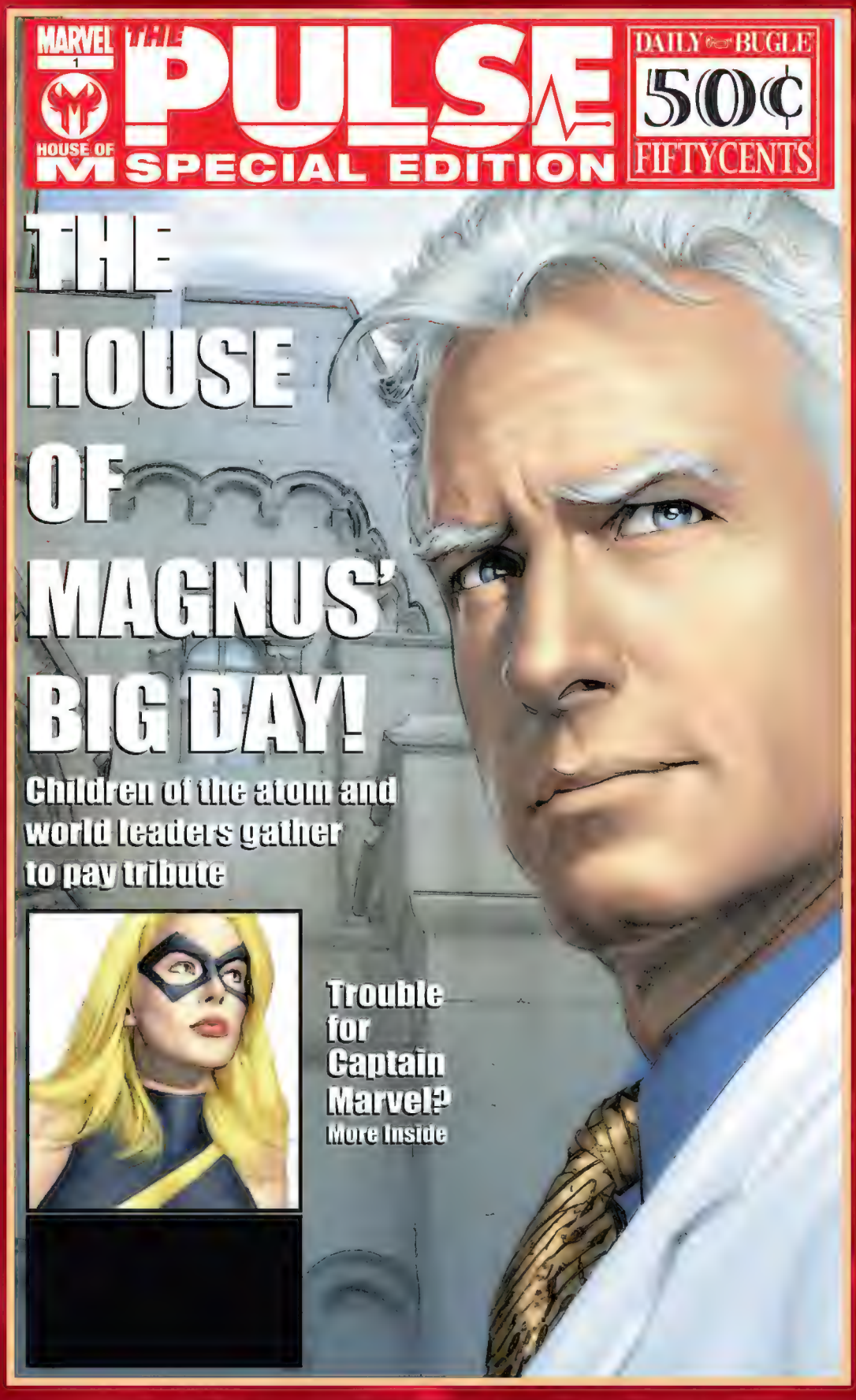
AGAIN?!
JUST ANOTHER DAY ON THE JOB, RIGHT?

WELL, LET'S GET SOMEBODY TO PUT THEIR MUTANT WHAMMY ON YOUR FACE AND HEAL YOU UP.
YOU NEED TO LOOK YOUR BEST FOR THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

20 MINUTES LATER...
THE WOMAN IN WHITE IS EMMA FROST. SHE'S A TELEPATH WHO CAN TALK TO PEOPLE USING HER MIND.
THE MAN BESIDE HER IS SCOTT SUMMERS.
THE GIRL IS LAYLA MILLER.
I'M TOLD ALL OF THIS IN THE INSTANT AFTER I HEAR EMMA'S VOICE IN MY HEAD.
CAROL DANVERS?
EMMA SAYS LAYLA IS GOING TO SHOW ME SOMETHING. I DON'T KNOW WHAT.
EMMA MAKES ME RELAX SO WHATEVER LAYLA IS ABOUT TO DO WILL JUST HAPPEN NATURALLY.
A MOMENT LATER, I KNOW THE LIE THAT THE WORLD HAS BECOME.
I KNOW THAT THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS IS NOT SUPPOSED TO EXIST.
I KNOW THAT, ALL APPEARANCES TO THE CONTRARY, I AM NOT THE BEST SUPER HERO ON EARTH.
I AM NOT THE BEST OF THE BEST.
IN A FLICKER OF AN INSTANT, I REALIZE THAT WHO I REALLY AM...
...IS BARELY A SHADOW OF WHO I THOUGHT I WAS.
DKNY JEANS


I WAS THE BEST OF THE BEST.
I'M SURE OF IT.
I WAS ON TOP OF THE WORLD AND NOW...
...NOW IT'S GONE.
HOW WAS I EVER THAT GOOD?
HOW WAS I EVER THAT PERSON?
HOW--?
THIS ISN'T A QUESTION OF WHAT I'M NOT.
THIS IS A QUESTION OF WHO I COULD BE.
THERE IS NO REASON AT ALL THAT I CAN'T BE AS GOOD AS I WAS YESTERDAY.
THERE IS NO REASON I SHOULDN'T BE THE BEST OF THE BEST.

SO THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING TO BE.


MARVEL
1
HOUSE OF M
THE PULSE
SPECIAL EDITION
DAILY BUGLE
50¢
FIFTY CENTS
THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS' BIG DAY!
Children of the atom and world leaders gather to pay tribute
Trouble for Captain Marvel?
More Inside

DAILY BUGLE
THE PULSE
SPECIAL EDITION
50¢
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HOUSE OF MAGNUS

HOUSE OF MAGNUS GALA THIS WEEKEND

House of Magnus' **ERIC MAGNUS** and **PRINCESS ORORO** of Kenya will be among the dignitaries celebrating thirty years of freedom from oppression by Sapiens.

Eric Magnus will be the center of attention, once again! This time at a charity gala in his honor hosted by the British Royal family.

Prince Namor, King T'Challa, Sir Victor Von Doom, Genis-Vell, Princess Ororo of Kenya and a smorgasbord of international glitterati are expected to pay tribute to the man in a once-in-a-lifetime event commemorating the anniversary of the rebellion against homo sapien oppressors that held the world captive for decades.

PRINCE NAMOR, ruler of Atlantis, will be attending.

The event has been put together by Magnus's children, all of whom will be in attendance.

Security will be tight as a highly publicized event like this makes a prime target for sapien relation sympathizers. Rumors of several underground movements using this event to make a statement of violence against the house of Magnus have been circulating for weeks, but sources close to the event say that no such threats have surfaced and that "we do not live in fear."

Born in the Nazi death camp in Auschwitz, Poland and the only member of his family to survive the camp, Magnus discovered himself to be one of the earliest reported mutants. With his all-encompassing powers over Earth's magnetic fields, Magnus became an early target in anti-mutant propaganda, where he was given the mocking name Magneto.

Magnus struggled through a number of sapien attacks over the years with various world governments and the media branding him a mutant terrorist. As New Yorkers know, on August 18, 1979, Eric Magnus came under attack by the original and highly controversial mutant-hunting Sentinels. This spectacular fight over the skies of New York City ended with Magnus unveiling proof of a worldwide multi-governmental anti-mutant conspiracy that funneled all the way up to our elected world leaders of the time, including American President Richard Nixon.

It was soon after the famed Sentinel takedown that the U.N. granted Magneto sovereignty over the newly established island of Genosha as the world capital of the mutant population.

Since then, with the homo superior population growing so quickly it is believed it will overtake the sapien population by the year 2013, Magneto's power base has restructured the world governments to include the pro-mutant life agenda into any and all law-making.

Look for full coverage of the event in the weekend edition of The Pulse along with an exclusive full color photo-essay of the red carpet arrivals.

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Personal Growth..... page 11

HOT AS HELL!

TONY STARK
Hostile takeover averted. Industrialist Iron Man pulls a rabbit out of his hat and gets to keep his name on the door.

ALISON BLAIRE
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]

JASON WYNGARDE
[illegible] tied to head with Tony Stark, and has nothing to show for it.

WARREN WORTHINGTON III
Sex scandal threatens to bring down family empire.

HELLFIRE CLUB
Closes its doors for the first time since 1760.

COLD AS ICE!

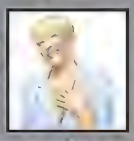
SPIDEY AND SON: **PETER PARKER** and son **RICHIE** spend quality time in Central Park.

BLIND ITEMS

GREEN WITH...

[illegible]

WHEN IS IT TIME...



[illegible]

BUN IN THE IRON OVEN?

[illegible]

Looks like TV's Simon Williams bagged himself one of the good ones. Though Carol Danvers aka Captain Marvel and the 'wonder'ful Mr. Williams won't go on record, here's proof positive that they ARE just friends... with benefits.

NEW TECHNIQUE EYED IN MUTANT STEM-CELL DEBATE

DOCTOR OTTO OCTAVIUS revealed his new procedure, known as "Altered."

With the nation deadlocked over the questionable morality of using mutated homo superior embryos for research for human medical treatments, a high ranking member of the President's Council on Nu-Bioethics is developing a proposal that might allow scientists to create the equivalent of homo superior embryonic stem cells without destroying mutant embryos, offering a potential path out of the controversy.

Dr. Otto Octavius, a bioethicist and staunch opponent of research on mutant embryos, has developed a procedure called Altered (Continued 15-B)

HYDRA SPLINTER GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR KIDNAPPING

A woman who goes by the name Madame Hydra released a statement to the press via a web site claiming responsibility for the abduction of Mariko Harada, daughter of Japanese businessman Keniuchio Harada. The statement claims that Harada is actually the leader of the Japanese crime cartel Clan Yashida. Harada has denied these claims on numerous occasion and points to his legitimate business ventures both here in America and abroad.

Mariko Harada, 11, was last seen being dragged into a red van containing at least five masked males right outside the Baxter Building, NYPD Sgt. Jasper Sitwell said that the girl is believed to be in imminent danger. Madame Hydra's statement included the words: "This girl's mutant blood will spill in the streets if the Harada family does not forfeit their profits in the Indonesian MGH drug trade."

The Harada family, through a statement, said: "This devastating turn of events is nothing short of blackmail. The Harada family does not profit from the international drug trade. This is the work of psychotics. Please, we beg you, give us our innocent daughter back. If she is not returned unharmed, there will be no end to the retaliation."

Mariko is described as 4 feet tall, weighing 65 pounds, with black hair and black eyes, and wearing a white sweater and black jeans.

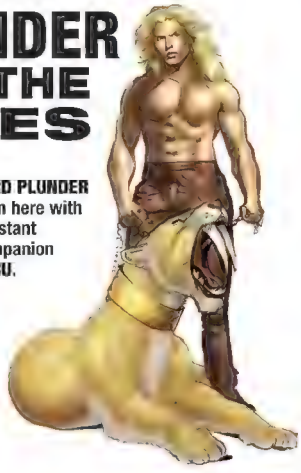
Anyone with information is asked to contact the nearest law-enforcement agency.

MARIKO HARADA, AGE 11. If you have any information regarding her whereabouts, please contact the F.B.I.

LORD KEVIN PLUNDER GETS ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES

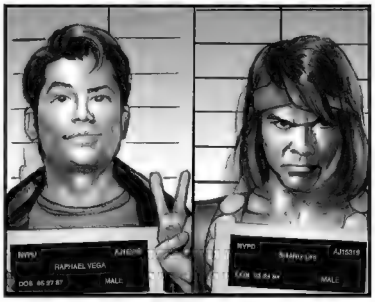
Human rights activist Lord Kevin Reginald Plunder has obtained political asylum in the United States after fleeing Pangea, where he had been serving a prison sentence for speaking out against the established government.

Plunder, 26, was originally given a four-year prison sentence on appeal on September 25th. In the last of a series of secret hearings, the Seventh District Court of Pandor sentenced Lord Plunder to (Continued 6-B)



LORD PLUNDER seen here with constant companion ZABU.

SUSPECTED SAPIEN GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED IN HELL'S KITCHEN



SUSPECTS RAPHAEL VEGA AND SHANG-CHI. Suspects in custody.

HELL'S KITCHEN (Reuters) Fifty-one people believed to be members of two powerful organized sapien crime gangs in New York were rounded up in pre-dawn raids and indicted on Tuesday, authorities said.

In three separate indictments filed in Manhattan Federal Court, the gang members faced charges including murder, attempted murder, racketeering, extortion, money laundering and operation of illegal gambling businesses.

Federal agents and New York police arrested members of the Dragon and Wolfpack crime organizations after investigations spanning two years, authorities said.

The Dragon group, led by Shang-Chi, and the Wolfpack group, headed by Raphael Vega, used violence and threats to protect their turf and profits, the U.S. Attorney General's office said.

A third indictment charged five defendants with smuggling illegal sapiens from Europe to the United States for fees of up to $44,000 each, and holding them hostage pending payment.

It is expected to take several weeks for the trial to begin due to the defense arguing that no mutant should be on the jury. This would set a dangerous precedent if the judge rules in favor of the defense on this point.

THUNDER DOWN UNDER

NOT-SO-JOLLY GREEN GIANT — The Hulk in the Australian Outback.

THE PULSE: SPECIAL EDITION NEWSPAPER

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by Jacob Gunterson

The potential threat to the Australian government, run by the individual known simply as "Exodus," was first revealed when government forces stationed in Darwin made an aerial and ground assault on illegally massing humans at the border of the Tanami Desert. Australian laws regarding norm gatherings are the strictest in the world, since illegal immigration by norms has been a consistent problem in Australia for some time now. Consequently, the norm population is closely monitored, and illegals are subject to immediate arrest and deportation.

"The Tanami Desert has become a major problem for us," said one mutant official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Norms have been flooding in from all over and putting down stakes there. Maybe they thought that no one would care about it, them being in the desert and all."

If that was indeed their reasoning, then it was incorrect. Government forces, under the command of "Unus the Untouchable," mounted an assault against the Tanami refugees with the intention of arrest, trial, and deportation. Either that or, according to sources, the most physically able would be put to work in labor camps where they would be retrained to be of benefit to the government.

The surprising appearance of the Hulk, however, turned what was expected to be a simple operation into a terrifying rout for the government forces.

"He came out of nowhere!" stated John Hoffman, 34, one of the government soldiers. "He had to be, like, fifteen feet tall! And he had laser beams shooting out his eyes, and giant claws out to here!"

Other witnesses claimed additional powers for the Hulk, including mind control, elasticity, and the ability to split into four different versions of himself. Unus the Untouchable himself was hospitalized after the battle and unable to comment.

Despite differing descriptions of the encounter, in which the Hulk annihilated ground troops including giant manned robots, several consistent reports emerged.

The first was that the Hulk was apparently working side-by-side with the human terrorist organization Advanced Idea Mechanics, or AIM. Reported present in the battle were such noted renegades as "the Scorpion," her mother, AIM scientist Monica Rappaccini and cyber-mechanics expert Aaron Isaacs, whose son was apprehended. While the boy's current whereabouts is classified, sources claim that he has been airlifted to Sydney where the governor's elite guard will interrogate him.

The second report was that the Hulk was covered in what are believed to be Aboriginal tribal markings. This has led to speculation that either the Hulk or his alter ego, Banner, had taken up residence with an Aboriginal tribe. According to sources, the Mutant Forces attack route brought them through Aboriginal territory, and that might have brought the wrath of the Hulk down upon them.

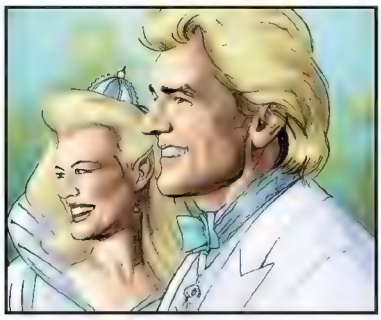
The whereabouts of the Hulk and his AIM allies is unknown at the present time, but government forces were confident they would be located and arrested in short order. (Continued in Hulk #83-87)

A BRITISH BIRTHDAY BASH

The British Royal Family decamped this morning from Buckingham Palace, London, to Braddock Manor, the ancestral family estate in the West of England, for a weekend of festival activities in celebration of the forthcoming birthday of Lord Magneto. The published guest list reads like an A-List "Who's Who" of both the Mutant and Baseline Society, headed by the Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair. The centerpiece of the scheduled events is a gala ball to be hosted by the Monarch himself and his consort, Her Royal Majesty, Queen Meggan. Initially, trial balloons had been floated about the possibility of Lord Magneto himself attending but it is now believed that he will be staying in his capital, Hammer Bay, Genosha.

The Monarch of course will be attending the actual birthday party itself in Genosha, along with the other Heads of State of the world's Great Powers.

One question making the rounds is the status of the Monarch's twin sister, Her Royal Highness Princess Elisabeth Gloriana. A self-described "rebel" from the start, she has always insisted on leading a wholly independent life, passionately committing herself to a number of fringe causes, most notably the so-called "Human Rights Campaign," which claims that the Baseline Gene populace of the world is being oppressed by the dominant Mutant Humanity. Recently, her actions led to widespread reports–since refuted—of her death in Valencia, Spain at the hands of a Baseline terrorist, Vargas. Her current whereabouts, and plans, are unknown; most recent reports–little more than rumors, really–state that she is "traveling," along with her Lady-in-Waiting, Lady Rachel Grey. As has been policy from the start, there has been no comment from the Palace to repeated enquiries about both; nor, according to Royal Spokesman Peter Wisdom, will there be.

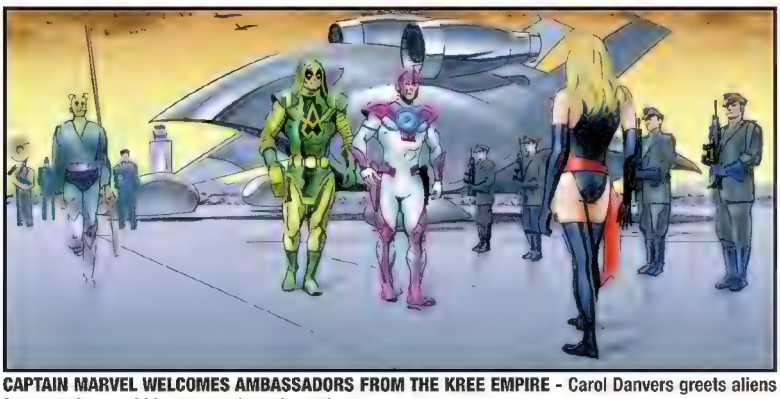


KING AND QUEEN TOGETHER - Brian and Meggan Braddock enjoy the day together.

Further complicating the planned celebrations here in Great Britain are as yet unconfirmed reports of possible terrorist sightings within the Realm. A National Alert has been issued for two unregistered aliens, one male, two meters tall and wearing red armor, answering to the code-name "Juggernaut." The other is female, of University age, described as looking very much like a classical goblin, with pointed "elf"-ears, indigo skin and hair. Instead of the normal number of fingers and toes, she has two digits on her hands and feet and preternatural acrobatic abilities. She may also have a tail. The only name applied to her is "Nocturne."

Police and security forces are confident they pose no threat to the Monarch and soon expect to take the fugitives into custody. Further, at least one Sentinel has been deployed to stand in the Monarch's personal defense. (Continued in *Uncanny X-Men #462-465*)

KREE DELEGATION ARRIVES TO HOPEFUL RECEPTION



CAPTAIN MARVEL WELCOMES AMBASSADORS FROM THE KREE EMPIRE - Carol Danvers greets aliens from another world in unprecedented meeting.

McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey – Amid secrecy, increased security and continued uncertainty, a delegation representing the interstellar Kree Empire arrived on Earth yesterday. Landing at 2:20 A.M. EST, the alien ship was met by the Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of State Robert Kelly and the Kree-empowered superhuman known as Captain Marvel. The delegation arrived with the expectation of finalizing a treaty providing protection by the massive Kree Armada against interstellar aggressors. Earth's solar system, in recent years, has become a focal point in the shipping routes and wormhole transportation channels used by advanced alien races.

Captain Marvel, whose powers were created by Kree technology that had been hidden on Earth for centuries, welcomed the delegation, saying, "We greet the ambassadors representing the Kree Empire, and the delegate from the outpost on Titan's Moon, the son of my very dear, departed friend, Mar-Vell. We hope that your first step on Earth will be our first step together towards galactic peace and prosperity."

Although the delegates were not made available to the press, Chief Delegate Ronan issued a statement claiming, "We have watched this world grow in truly wondrous ways. Your evolution has both surprised and intrigued us. We are here to see that your advancements continue free from the threat of species jealousies and evolutionary reactionaries that permeate our galaxy."

The delegate from Titan referred to by Captain Marvel, Private Genis-Vell of the Kree Exploratory Armada, was not made available for comment, but he has been given clearance by the United Nations and the Unified Armed Forces of Earth to engage the planet and its people in a fact-finding goodwill tour.

It is expected that while Ronan and the majority of the Kree delegation finalizes the parameters of the treaty at the United Nations starting today, Private Vell will make numerous public appearances. Vell is expected to tour to Magneto's "VICTORY" statue on the Great Lawn in Central Park on Friday, with controversial appearances at Cape Canaveral Space Center and NORAD Control Center's Valhalla Base planned for next week. (Continued in *New Thunderbolts #11*)

WORLD LEADERS GATHER FOR HISTORIC GENOSHA SUMMIT

MAGNETO, MOLE KING RIFT WIDENS AS TRADE TREATY STALLS

GENOSHA — Lord Magneto's "road map" to peace with renegade leader and longtime House of M opponent Mole King stalled yesterday as both sides failed to reach accord and the treaty was rejected. Joining the historic meeting with the leader of the rogue subterranean nation-state of Molvia was Latverian ruler Victor Von Doom. The meeting, a bid to stem Moloid insurgent violence that has claimed more than 300 lives since September, took place in the capital of Genosha.

This summit, the first between Lord Magneto and Mole King, was originally hailed as a breakthrough in relations with mutant and Moloid people, and the first step toward legitimacy of the unrecognized Molvian nation state. However, the leaders were unable to reach an agreement, and sparred over matters of Molvian sovereignty. Also contested were mineral rights to vast uranium and vibranium deposits on disputed Molvian territory, and a trade proposal was also rejected.

In a brief press conference following the meeting, Lord Magneto said he was "confident this is a first step on a path that will ultimately result in long and lasting peace between mutants, man and Moloids."

Mole King, however, was less optimistic, admitting "There are significant and fundamental philosophical differences between the Moloids and the House of M. If we are on a road to peace, it will be a long and difficult road indeed."

Latveria's temperamental leader Von Doom, who often refuses to participate in dialogue with Genosha's press corps altogether, offered a pessimistic assessment: "The Mole King is a fool. He lacks respect, and an understanding of his true place in the world. This summit has been a farce, and a waste of Doom's time."

The summit, which was scheduled to last the remainder of the week, concluded prematurely, at Doom's insistence, when he is alleged to have smashed the conference table before angrily departing for Latveria. Magneto, however, remained upbeat. "The Mole King and I may not see eye-to-eye, but he is a passionate leader of his people and a wise man. I have no doubt we will eventually come to some sort of understanding."

Doom was unavailable for further comment.

(Continued in *Fantastic Four: House of M # 1-3*)

LORD MAGNETO WITH LATVERIAN LEADER VON DOOM AND THE SUBTERRANEAN MONARCH MOLE KING: The summit's trade treaty discussions stall, creating a greater divide between nations

EMBASSY ATTACKED; SENTINEL STOLEN

MEXICO CITY: Late Friday evening, an embassy building in Mexico City was the site of the latest bloody attack by non-mutant guerilla forces against the House of Magnus. Stolen during the attack was a Sentinel robot slated to be a gift to the Mexican government. The whereabouts of the Sentinel, as well as the details of the attack, remain largely unknown.

Sebastian Shaw, director of S.H.I.E.L.D., held a brief press conference in the hours following the attack. When asked if the elite Red Guard had been deployed, Shaw replied, "We believe that we already have one of our agents inside the organization."

Before leaving, Shaw was asked if the rumor that a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent had been killed during the attack was true. Shaw, smiling, replied, "This is a wild exaggeration. One of our agents was injured during the attack, but it was most assuredly not life-threatening. He'll be fine." (Continued in *Wolverine #33-35*)

S.H.I.E.L.D. DIRECTOR SEBASTIAN SHAW SPEAKS OUT AGAINST THE TERRORISTS. "They will be found. They will be caught. And they will be punished," he said.

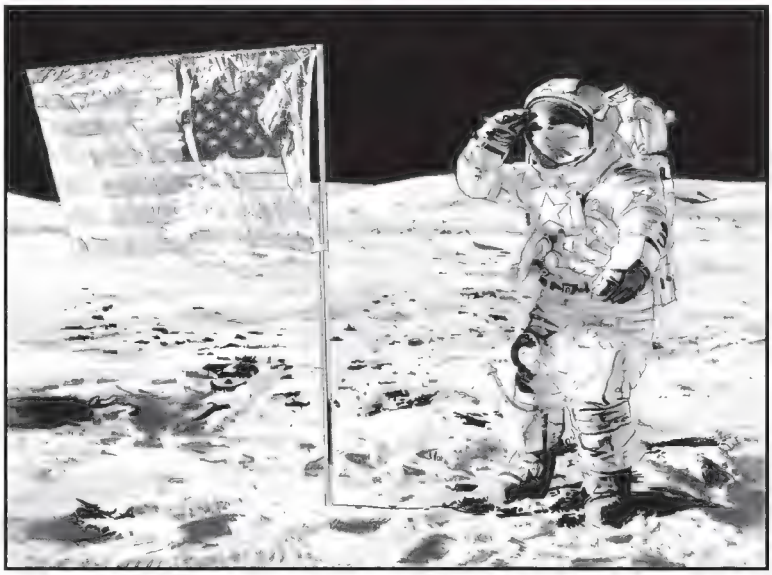
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S WALK ON MOON CELEBRATED

By Ed "Scoop" Brubaker

It's hard to believe, with all the progress that manned space flight has made in the last generation, that it was only 50 years ago that the USA first landed on the moon. More memorable, of course, are the words of Astronaut Steve Rogers, who fought through World War Two as America's Super-soldier, Captain America; "One small step for man, one giant step for peace between man and mutantkind." For it was only through the joint work of Homo-Sapien and Homo-Superior scientists that America had reached the stars before the Russians, who were at that point still our enemy. And yet last night's celebration of the man's life and achievements in Manhattan was a sparsely attended affair, at best.

Among the attending, though, was the Sub-Mariner's son, Prince Wringor of Atlantis, who spoke at length about Rogers' heroism before the Senate Sub-Committee hearings on Mutant Activity in 1951. As you'll recall, Rogers resigned from his role as Captain America on live TV, on the Senate floor, during those hearings, after refusing to inform on his one-time teammate, Prince Namor, who the government at the time considered a dangerous mutant.

It was controversial for Rogers to be allowed into the Space Program after such a public incident, but it's believed some strings were pulled and arguments made behind closed doors about the proper use of Rogers' government-financed enhanced abilities. In any case, Rogers' statement at that time was literally a giant step forward in human/mutant relations, which were at the time, quite heated and dangerous. Historians now consider Rogers one of the key "bridge" figures who helped society move forward, helped move people beyond their prejudices and fears, and allowed Mutants to first be accepted as equals.



CAPTAIN STEVE ROGERS walks on the Moon 50 years ago.

Which is why Rogers' statements of warning about Magnus in the '70s, after his destruction of the Sentinel program, came as such a shock to many within the Mutant community. Rogers warned that Magnus's plans sounded suspiciously like the kind of tyranny he'd spent most of the '40s fighting against. Sources inside NASA claim he was forced into retirement shortly thereafter. This might explain the lack of any significant official Mutant presence at this event.

Rogers himself spoke for no more than a minute, in a careful and calm voice, yet one slightly tinged with sadness, thanking the men and mutants who'd fought and died beside him in the War, and those who'd sacrificed themselves in the Space Program. And then he was gone, leaving us with but a memory of a living legend, a man who walked among giants and among the stars. (Continued in *Captain America #10*)

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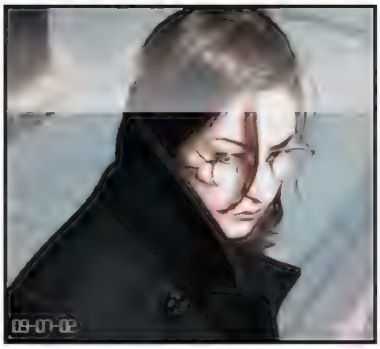
IS MUTANT MURDERER REALLY SAPIEN SCIENTIST?

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND — In recent months, a string of ghastly murders originating in the Scottish capital have made headlines around the world. Dubbed "Mutant X" by the tabloid press, the as-yet-unidentified serial killer remains at large, and authorities fear that he or she may extend the murderous rampage beyond the borders of the United Kingdom. The sensational crimes first gained widespread notoriety owing to the fact that the victims are exclusively mutants, and that each corpse was found in a hideous, emaciated state, as if mummified. This telltale disfigurement is Mutant X's calling card and seemingly clear evidence that the killer is a mutant with the ability to somehow wither the victims' flesh. However, a theory recently announced by Interpol throws a new spin on the Mutant X manhunt.

Detective Chief Inspector Roger Llewellyn, Scotland Yard's liaison to Interpol, revealed on Tuesday that the Mutant X Joint Task Force is now pursuing the theory that the killings may be the work of a fugitive Sapien scientist with a well-established bias against Mutantkind. Scottish geneticist Moira MacTaggert was among the first scientists to recognize the ascendancy of mutants and rapid decline of the Sapien population. Rather than accept this natural step in human evolution, MacTaggert spoke at several international genetics symposiums arguing the need for what she termed a "cure for the mutant condition." Of course, the mainstream scientific community rejected Doctor MacTaggert's work and all her funding was rescinded, but she continued seeking a way to curtail the spectacular rise in human mutation that characterized the past century. When Parliament passed legislation making her research illegal, MacTaggert fled her home and laboratory on Muir Isle and has remained a fugitive ever since. She is on Interpol's Most Wanted listings and Sentinel patrols across Europe have her features programmed into their active recognition systems. Still, MacTaggert eludes capture.



Surveillance photo of DR. MOIRA MACTAGGERT, courtesy of Interpol.

Interpol and Scotland Yard now fear that the emaciated corpses are not, as was previously believed, evidence of a flesh-wasting mutant ability. Rather, they speculate that the horrific deaths may be the result of MacTaggert's genetic "cure." Sadly, this dangerously misguided genius may have convinced herself that the only remedy for Sapien decline is the murder of innocent mutants. (Continued in *Exiles #69-71*)

THE SHALLOW END OF THE GENE POOL?

By Dr. Henry Pym—Special to Scientific American

In the world of biogenetics, Nathanial Essex is both rock star and pariah. He is the rock star whose years-long drug binge has left him a shell of the performer he once was, begrudgingly respected, but with more than a hint of regret. He is a pariah whose ever-escalating theories on the acceleration and resultant gentrification of the Homo Mutatis gene pool has made him untouchable among academic circles.

Little is known about his whereabouts, less about his activities. For the first time in ten years, Essex has made a public entreaty, contacting this writer after he'd read my report in the New England Journal of Medicine concerning the possibilities of cellular miniaturization as it pertains to the agricultural fields, as well as population control and military applications.

Essex did not speak with me for very long, and he divulged little of what he had been doing for the last decade, but he did say that my theories were proof of his long-held belief that Homo Sapiens deserved "the opportunity of natural progression as well as that of natural selection." Long derided for his convictions that Homo Mutatis proliferated across the planet at a far faster pace than natural evolution should have allowed or would have preferred, Essex had been ostracized by the political pressure brought upon him by the mutant majority. He has made discreet congratulatory gestures to any humans he feels have "reached above and beyond their meager means."

DR. NATHANIAL ESSEX gives a lecture in Prague last September.

I assume that, according to him, I made big strides with my theories on little things. In our brief conversation, I tried to get Essex to open up, talk about what he had been working on during his long isolation, but the most he would give me was a very cryptic, "The world will see in about eighteen years. Maturity and greatness can not be rushed. It must be attained through age and experience."

With that, Essex hung up the phone, and before I called the editors of this publication to offer my experiences, I sat there for a few minutes, thinking about the fact that the biogenetics equivalent of Einstein had just made a call to me as casually as if he'd called for Domino's take-out. Underlying the thrill and uncertainty surrounding our brief conversation was also a nagging concern... a fear that had crawled down my spine with every one of Essex's whispered words.

I wondered what he had been doing for the last ten years, wondered why we would have to wait eighteen more years to find out. And I wondered if the greatness that man could achieve might not also quite possibly be a threat to all life on Earth. I feared that the madness of the rock star and the isolation of the pariah had turned Essex into something very different, something almost...sinister.

Whatever he had planned, I suspect the ego he wields and the rejection he obviously nurtures will lead Essex into trying to discover, or create, the next step in genetic evolution. Something greater than Homo Sapiens, beyond Homo Mutatis. Something new, some kind of link between the two, a lifeline, a cable leading to something...better? (Continued in *Cable and Deadpool #17*)

GREEN GOBLIN: SPIDEY'S 'A GOOD KID'

Joe "Crusher" Hogan remembers the night the skinny teenage boy hobbled into the Madison Square Garden wrestling ring. "He weighed about 10 pounds, and he was so uncoordinated I thought he'd trip over the ropes. Then there was his get-up; he had, like, a fishnet stocking on his face. The crowd laughed like crazy, and I couldn't help it, I laughed too. But I always felt bad about the whole 'Beat Crusher and win $300' contest. This kid especially, he looked like he really needed money, but all he'd get by wrestling me was a hospital bed."

Peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-Man, ended up with quite a lot of money. In the guise of the Green Goblin, Parker's favorite wrestling opponent, Hogan has done very well, too. But first "Crusher" had to undergo an astonishing public humiliation. "When he kicked my butt in the ring, nobody could believe it. How'd this little drink of water get so strong and so fast? I didn't know anything about mutants back then. But he sure taught me." Hogan returned the favor, training the rookie to compete professionally in the fledgling World Wrestling Alliance. "Best bet I ever made. He put the Alliance on the map, he put me on the map. And no matter how big he gets in Hollywood, or with his businesses, he never forgets us. He did a match with me just last month, and you know he doesn't have to, with all his money. He's just always been a good kid."

In giving Parker all of the credit for his success, Hogan glosses over his own talents. He was always a tough, athletic competitor, and his theatrical skills blossomed as Spider-Man's darkly villainous wrestling foe. "We were always a good fit. Spidey's so fun loving with the wisecracks and all, and he encouraged me to go over the top with Goblin. Bad as I could be. Of course he designed the suit—he's good at that, you know, and he gave me the name and all. I'm just lucky. He walked into the ring that first night."

Has Spidey encouraged the Goblin to follow in his Hollywood footsteps? "Oh yeah, he's been great. He got me into that zombie picture a few years ago"—Hogan is referring to the straight-to-video Bloodbath of the Flesh-Eaters—"and I had a lot of trouble learning the lines, so they cut my part down a lot. Wrestling as the Goblin is acting, but there's not a lot of reading to it, you know? So it's better."

Of course, athletic careers don't last forever. When asked if he harbors any post-wrestling plans, Hogan's expression turns serious.

"I might run for governor." (Continued in *Spider-man: House of M #1-5*)

JOE "CRUSHER" HOGAN revels in victory after a match.

DRAGONS OVER CHI-TOWN AND STARK TRIUMPHANT
THE SAPIEN DEATH MATCH SEASON OPENER

By Flash Thompson

Season X of Sapien Death Match launched last night in Chicago with reigning champ and fan fave Tony Stark racking up another win, mangling MBC Productions' latest robo terror and pulverizing three challengers in the final round of one-on-one combat.

Fifteen armored gladiators entered the arena for the evening's first round of action. Within two minutes, the field had narrowed to seven. Clark, Benson, and Chang detonated land mines the instant they touched ground. At least they can tell the grandkids they set foot onto the arena of champions—just barely! Mendoza and Grierson succumbed to the usual volley of heat-seeking missiles while Takahashi and Ellison had the unfortunate luck to be standing behind Heavy-S when his suit's pulse cannon backfired.

Critics have long groused about the rapidity of the first round melee—with so much action so quickly in every corner of the field, it's hard to absorb and particularly disappointing for supporters of obscure up-and-comers who fall within seconds. But fans in the cheap seats love the grand sweep of those first few seconds of chaos. And you gotta love a sport which breaks it all down so fast, immediately culling the field of stragglers so that the true glory of great combat can shine—as it did last night in Round Two.

MBC Productions spent the off-season hyping the rumor mills about the mind-blowing new robos they'd be sending against this year's Sapien gladiators. I'll admit I was one of those who nodded cynically and said, "Yeah, another big tank, whatever." But this reporter's mouth literally fell open when the giant robo dragon descended from the skies at the top of Round Two.

Easily fifty feet long, the sinuous machine moved with the agility and speed of a flying cobra as it advanced on the gladiators. The stands rattled with chants of "Tony, Tony!" But Stark held back, observing as young Johnny Storm took the first shot against the beast. Developed in China by Triple F Industries, the dragon has been touted as the most advanced piece of large scale robotics ever deployed outside of the military or aerospace industries. Maybe Tony was slipping into his day job as president of Stark Industries, taking notes on a competitor's product. Or maybe he's just smart. Because it was Johnny Storm who took the brunt of the dragon's surprise attack—gouts of fire from its mouth and nose, which dwarfed Storm's own flame-based weaponry and knocked the promising young gladiator out of the evening's fight.

While the dragon busied itself with dismantling O'Finley, Bates, and Habima, Stark formed a temporary battlefield alliance with Chin, F-Trane, and Skipper to begin coordinated waves of attacks against the beast's vulnerable joints, culminating in a blinding explosion, the glow from which Indiana residents report seeing on the horizon fifty miles away.

In the final round of individual combat, Stark quickly trounced Chin and Skipper. F-Trane managed a handful of interesting evasive moves and launched a surprise volley of concussion grenades, but ran out of new tricks when Stark caught him by the scruff of the neck and put him out for the night. (Continued in *Iron Man: House of M #1-3*)

TONY STARK battles a bionic dragon in Sapien Death Match this season on MBC.

STORM CLOUDS OVER AFRICA

DAZZLING STORM - Ororo Munroe visits the Alison Blaire show yesterday.

Of all the lands that have benefited from Magneto's reign, the continent of Africa has benefited the most. Under mutant control, poverty and pestilence have been replaced with abundance and a higher standard of living than ever before.

But on the popular ALISON show yesterday, Queen Ororo of Kenya hinted of political upheaval in the region's future. In an exchange that accused Magneto of racial bias, she seemed to ally herself with The Black Panther, the human leader of Wakanda, one of the last regions under human control.

The Black Panther has long been suspected of harboring human terrorists, but so far has upheld the terms of the non-aggression pact his father signed decades ago.

The question is, will Apocalypse, the Magneto loyalist who rules Northern Africa, be forced to intercede if weapons of mutant destruction are found on Wakandan soil? Weapons inspector Sabretooth is being dispatched today. His meeting with The Black Panther will decide whether a larger military intervention is necessary. (Continued in *Black Panther* #7)

FACE DOWN IN THE GUTTER

ALL THE GOSSIP THAT'S UNFIT TO PRINT FROM DICK "IS THAT A PISTOL IN YOUR POCKET OR ARE YOU JUST GLAD TO- OH IT IS A PISTOL" JONSTON

The hottest ticket in town this week had to be the premiere of "Let's Make Love — Again," the first of two back-to-back Marilyn Monroe remakes from the Kaufman Studio. So was the repeat experience a night to remember? More of an anti-climax, according to movie critics, including our own Paul Cale who commented acidly, "The face may be right but behind the glamorous illusion, the acting is as dead as the real Norma Jean. Frankly I'd prefer a CGI Monroe with a voice-over."

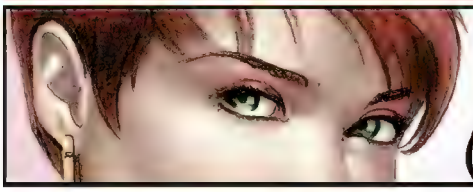
But that won't stop the punters from flocking to multiplexes across the country, and in the words of Daniel "Shaky" Kaufman: "Butts on seats count for more than a bunch of awards from some cruddy Film Festival in Nowheresville, France."

So once again, box-office gold for the self-anointed King of Hollywood and his fourth wife, Lara the Illusionist. Among the A-list celebs who flocked to the après film soirée at Kaufman's "Inferno" club were Tony "The Iron Man" Stark, recently voted most eligible Sapien Bachelor by our very own readers, who arrived in the company of the wonderful Mary Jane Watson; Alison Blaire, dazzling the assembled paparazzi in a revealing creation from Janet Van Dyne; Simon Williams whose limo arrived only minutes before Carol Danvers – a less than successful attempt to scotch rumors of a relationship. The two were spotted later by yours truly, canoodling in a most unplatonic fashion in a secluded corner of the club.

TONY STARK escorts MARY JANE WATSON down the red carpet.

A late arrival was Warren Worthington III, looking to these eyes, a little unsteady on his feet. WWIII received an unexpected champagne toast from the only real royalty present at the shindig, when Ororo Munroe upended her drink over the unfortunate Mr. Worthington. Was it something he said? Whatever happened between them, I'm reliably informed that Mr. Worthington was accompanied all the way home by his own private rain cloud.

And my own weather forecast for the week? More stormy weather ahead, when Jazz-E-Jazz hits town with a private performance to celebrate the climax of his "Kind of Blue" World Tour. The Jazzy One is planning to partaayy like it's 1999 all over again and the guest list is guaranteed to send the sparks flying. Shaky Kaufman and Filthy Frankie Zapruder in the same room? You heard it here first. The last time these two business rivals shared the same air, Shaky's personal bodyguard, Jimmy Damiano, known as "Mr. Punch," went down in a hail of bullets. Although charges were never pressed against Zapruder, Kaufman is thought to have sworn revenge for the death of his "best and most loyal friend." So what I'd like to know is—Where can I hire a bulletproof tux?



Janet Van Dyne
The Signature of Style
PARIS ◇ MILAN ◇ NEW YORK CITY

THREE PHASES TOWARDS SUCCESS: POPULAR PSYCHOLOGIST HAS TRADED A GOVERNMENT JOB FOR TEACHING GIG

One year ago, anyone watching the dealings of the House Of Magnus would have pegged Sean Garrison as the next Press Secretary for the world's ruling family. But one year ago, few people knew that Garrison had a higher priority: his daughter's education.

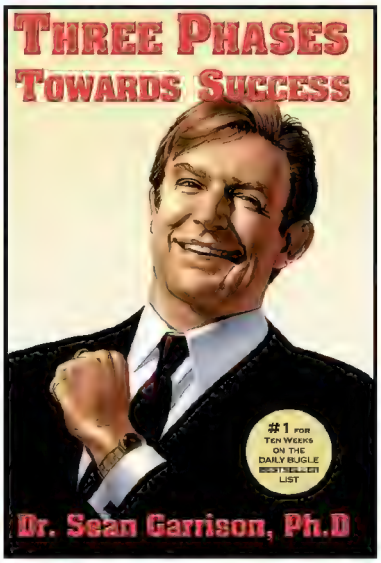
Dr. Garrison has written five best-selling novels on how to achieve your dreams. His term, "The Three Phases Towards Success," has entered the vernacular and become almost a cliché. His three steps are simple. First Phase: Decide what you really want to be. Second Phase: Eliminate obstacles towards your success. Third Phase: Become what you want to be. As anyone who's watched Garrison (or "Dr. Sean," as the faithful call him) on his television show knows, the trick is the First Phase. What do you want to be?

For Garrison, that seemed straightforward. A man known to the world as a trustworthy friend, his pheromone powers can put anyone at ease. Yet his ability to communicate was not just the product of his impressive mutant abilities. People feel strongly about Garrison watching him on TV, or reading his book–media that his pheromones could never affect. When Magneto needed a new spokesman, there seemed no better man for the job.

But Garrison is also a father. His fifteen-year-old daughter, Laurie, was invited to join the prestigious New Mutant Leadership Institute in New York, a training center for the next generation of mutant leaders. To be close with Laurie (who shares his mutant gifts), Garrison took a faculty position at the Institute, declining the job as Press Secretary.

When Dr. Garrison was young and newly famous, he became involved with a fan—a Sapien fan. She became pregnant with his child, and ran off. Gail Collins attempted to keep Garrison from knowing he was a father, and tried to raise Laurie as a baseline human.

The police tracked Ms. Collins down. The resulting standoff made the evening news for three nights running. Many feared Collins would take her own life, and perhaps Laurie's as well. But Garrison arrived on the scene, and, despite Collins' newfound immunity to his powers (the result of her pregnancy), talked her down. Collins went into a mental institution. And Garrison became a single father.



DR. SEAN GARRISON'S latest bestselling book.

Despite her public coming-out, Laurie has been shielded from the spotlight. But the Institute trains leaders, so her father felt the time had come for Laurie to be the focus.

When asked if he regrets going to the Institute, Garrison is unequivocal. "Never. Laurie and I are close. We talk daily. I'm helping her to achieve her Three Phases. That, in turn, is the greatest success a man can ask for."

As for those who say a government job would better suit him, he has only this to say: "I still have friends in the government. When Laurie's dreams are achieved, it'll be my turn. You'll hear from me again." (Continued in *New X-Men #16-19*)

CAN YOU GUARANTEE THAT YOUR BABY WILL BE A MUTANT?

- HoM Scientists say that to increase chances of Mutant Birth, ambient temperature of the mother's home should remain at exactly 68 degrees.
- Stay away from organic vegetables. Produce treated with MGH encourages healthy gene stock.
- There is always a chance that a child will be born with the X-Gene, but that chance increases when one or more parents are Meta-Humans. (This means you, Wonder-Man and Captain Marvel!) ...and is almost guaranteed when one or both parents are Homo-Superior.

- Some happy mutant-mamas claim a daily prayer to the mythical Apocalypse can be a boon.
- If all else fails, pro-Sapien regimes like that of Latveria regularly put mutants up for international adoption.
- Don't filter your water—various environmental factors, while increasing the chance of bacteria and viruses, can also have positive effects on the human genome.
- While it is not strictly considered a mutation, exposing your children to: gamma radiation, cosmic rays, the power cosmic, vats of strange chemicals or the bite of an irradiated animal can make your child a meta-human, and as they say, "Metas better than Not-a!"
- House of M Sponsored Fertility clinics can, for a price, make use of the genetic donations of all types of mutants. Increase your chances of raising a Flyer!
- Although most likely unattainable by most of our readers, it has been said that a blessing from Lord Magnus himself, with his constant magnetic field, can act as the catalyst for children still in the womb.

SECRETS OF THE HOUSE OF M

SECRETS OF THE HOUSE OF M

It was a time of great chaos.

The destructive humans were out for blood. Mutant beings across the planet were on the verge of extinction. Sentinels hunted down the genetically superior minority, who were slaughtered mercilessly for doing nothing more than trying to survive. Governments across the globe were engaged in a war against a new species of man – Homo Superior – for what they believed would be the fate of mankind.

They were right.

In the earliest days of the Mutant-Human War, mankind drove mutants into hiding. Scattering like rats, the mutants were uncertain of where to turn or what to believe in. Were they genetic freaks and monsters or the next step in evolution?

With uncertainty running rampant through their ranks, mutants were losing the war. Mutants were clearly more powerful than their genetic cousins, but they had no rallying point. They had no leader. But the constant attacks on mutants across the globe left them ready for a fight. And men and women rose to the occasion. One mutant, the Homo Superior known as Magneto, was the first to strike back.

With his magnetic powers, Magneto was able to destroy a fleet of robotic Sentinels. The first mutant victory of the Mutant-Human War was caught on television and broadcast across the world. This one act of defiance horrified and reassured the human leaders of the planet that the mutant threat needed to be abolished for all time... and it led the thousands of mutants that then existed to have hope and to rally behind their new leader. Magnus led the revolution until its conclusion in Central Park with the destruction of the non-metallic Sentinels built specifically to counter his magnetic powers.

Since then, mutants have lived their dreams, finally able to come out of hiding. Their world is a Mutant Utopia. Able to use their abilities to their fullest, mutants are accomplishing things humans never dreamed possible; after years of oppression, they are able to live lives free of persecution and bigotry. The nightmare of the Mutant-Human War has given way to a time of great prosperity and hope. It is the beginning of the rule of Homo Superior on Earth and it has been a beautiful dawn.

There are those who see the world differently, however. As mutants multiplied and prospered, humans began to dwindle and became the minority. While "Sapiens" are tolerated in society, only a few of them are able to prosper in a time when their simple genetic structure leaves them at a decided disadvantage. It appears the time of Homo Sapiens is about to end, while the time of Homo Superior is on the rise.

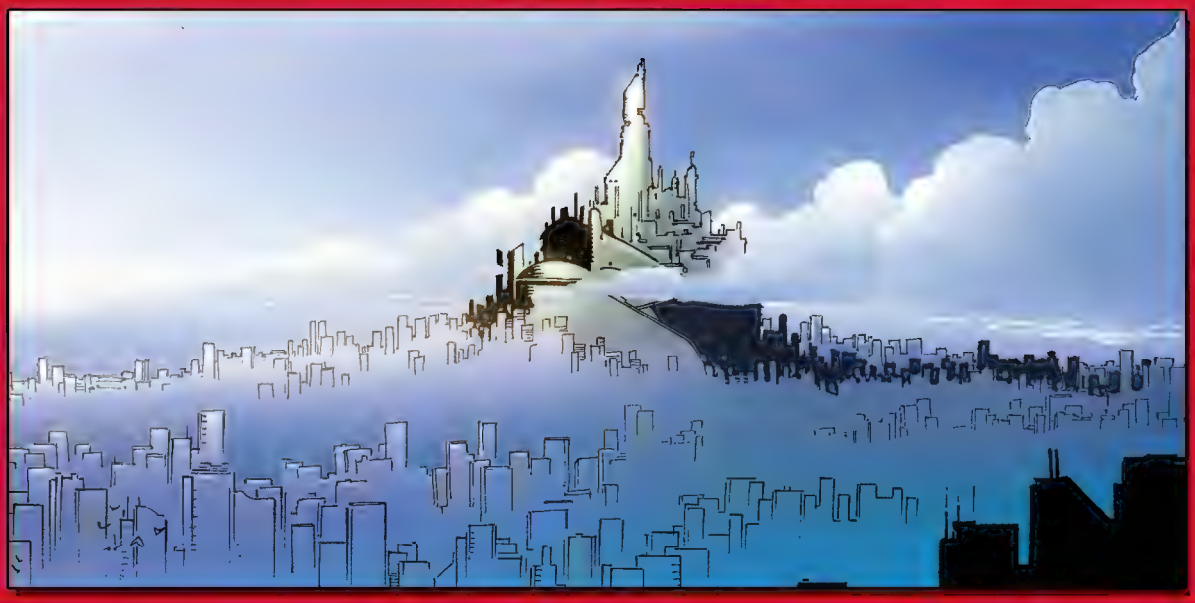
Welcome to the World of M — a world ruled by the man known as Magneto. It is his greatest dream come true.

House of M

Genosha is the symbolic capital of Magneto's mutant kingdom. At one point, it was the most technologically advanced society on the planet, due entirely to its Mutate population. Mutates were an underclass of mutants reduced to living automata by the Genoshan government. That all changed the day a mutant attack force led by Magneto and his best friend, Charles Xavier, took over the island and freed the Mutates.

Eventually, Magneto converted the island into the capital of his ever expanding mutant empire; when he finally led the mutants to victory in the Mutant-Human War, Magneto made the site of one of humankind's most monstrous crimes the capital of the new mutant-ruled world.

Genosha is currently the home of Magneto and his family as well as his Royal Guard, a brotherhood of mutants brought together by Magneto. Made up of many of the mutants who were closest to him during the Mutant-Human War, this group consists of Magneto's most trusted allies. They serve as bodyguards as well as emissaries for Magneto and his family around the world and would give their lives for him without a second thought. In their minds, he is their lord and savior. He delivered them from extinction and has earned their supreme loyalty.



Art by Olivier Coipel

Magneto

REAL NAME: Magnus
KNOWN ALIASES: King Magnus, Master of Magnetism
IDENTITY: Known throughout the world as the savior and leader of Mutantkind
OCCUPATION: Monarch of Earth
PLACE OF BIRTH: Somewhere in Europe
CITIZENSHIP: Monarch of the House of M
KNOWN RELATIVES: Unnamed parents (deceased), unnamed sister (deceased), Lorna (daughter), Pietro (Quicksilver, son), Wanda (daughter), Anya (daughter, deceased), Magda (wife, believed deceased), Tyler (grandson), other unnamed grandchildren
GROUP AFFILIATION: House of M
EDUCATION: Unknown
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 190 lbs.
EYES: Bluish-gray
HAIR: Silver

HISTORY: Magnus is a mutant who knows first-hand the horror of prejudice gone unchecked. It is a horror he refuses to see repeated—and he has vowed to do anything in his almighty power to stop it from ever happening again.

As the only surviving member of his family after internment at a Nazi prison camp, Magnus saw the kind of inhumanity ruthless, amoral human beings were capable of inflicting upon the world. Never again does he want to face the horror and degradation he and his people faced during World War II.

In the decades that followed, mutants began to appear across the globe. To the normal humans these mutants were looked upon as time bombs waiting to explode. Believing they had no other option, the human governments developed mutant-hunting Sentinels to deal with the threat of the genetically superior. Mutants scattered and hid from these robotic monstrosities.

Magneto chose a different path. As other mutants hid, Magneto launched an offensive against humankind in an effort to save his people. His first assault against a squadron of Sentinels was seen on television worldwide. It was the rallying cry mutants across the globe needed. With Magneto as their leader, the Homo Superior were able to take their rightful place as the heirs to the planet Earth.

Magneto's greatest victory took place in Central Park where a monument to his victory over the Sentinels and the humans stands to this day. With the governments of the world defeated, they waited for Magneto to determine their fate. Surprisingly, Magnus was merciful. Instead of destroying humankind, he allowed them to survive. He would not become a monster like those he first encountered in the Nazi prison camps all those years ago. His kindness, however, was tempered by the knowledge that humans would be extinct within two generations. Magnus and his mutant brethren had inherited the Earth. And Magneto would serve as its king.

Now, Magnus and his royal family, including his son Pietro, and his daughters Lorna and Wanda, reside in the capital city of Genosha. There, he rules the Earth with his iron will, and protects his dream of a world where mutants are free and celebrated as the genetic marvels they are.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Magneto is a mutant with the ability to shape and manipulate magnetic fields. He uses his powers in many different ways including: creating a personal force field, flight, and energy blasts.

Art by Scot Eaton

HOUSE OF M

REAL NAME: Lorna
KNOWN ALIASES: Lorna Dane
IDENTITY: Known worldwide as a member of the House of M
OCCUPATION: Royalty, Diplomat
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A., House of M
KNOWN RELATIVES: Magnus (Magneto, father), Pietro (Quicksilver, half-brother), Wanda (half-sister), Anya (half-sister, deceased), Tyler (nephew), unnamed grandparents (deceased), unnamed aunt (deceased), unnamed children, nieces, and nephews
GROUP AFFILIATION: House of M
EDUCATION: Master's Degree in geophysics
HEIGHT: 5'7" WEIGHT: 115 lbs
EYES: Dark green HAIR: Light green

Lorna

HISTORY: Lorna Dane was an orphan when the Human-Mutant War began. She witnessed Magneto's first battle with the Sentinels on television like the rest of the world; but for Lorna, the event was a little different. Around this same time, her mutant abilities began to develop. With no place else to turn, and Sentinels hunting for mutants all over the world, Lorna followed the lead of the only mutant she had ever seen. She lashed out at the Sentinels in the sky and became a leader of mutant teens in her area.

Eventually, Magneto recruited Lorna and her small team of mutants to join his rebellion. She was a valuable ally, and Magneto would eventually reveal she was actually his daughter. Currently, Lorna resides in the House of M on Genosha with the rest of her family. She is completely devoted to Magnus and his dream and is a perfect daughter.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Lorna is a mutant who, like her father, has the ability to manipulate the magnetic spectrum.

REAL NAME: Pietro
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Known worldwide as a member of the House of M
OCCUPATION: First Prince of the House of M, Diplomat
PLACE OF BIRTH: Wundagore, Transia, Europe
CITIZENSHIP: Formerly Transia, currently House of M
KNOWN RELATIVES: Magnus (Magneto, father), Magda (mother, deceased), Wanda (sister), Anya (sister, deceased), Lorna (half-sister), Tyler (nephew), unnamed grandparents (deseased), unnamed aunt (deceased), unnamed nieces and nephews
GROUP AFFILIATION: House of M
EDUCATION: Unknown
HEIGHT: 6' WEIGHT: 185 lbs
EYES: Blue HAIR: White

Quicksilver

HISTORY: Quicksilver is the son of the most powerful man on the planet, Magneto, and the heir to his throne. During the most desperate days of the Mutant-Human War, with S.H.I.E.L.D. intercepting all of Magneto's communications, Pietro was used to coordinate attacks and risked his life time and again to deliver crucial information to mutant operatives around the world. Following Magneto's final victory, Quicksilver was invited to a victory dinner in the capital city of Genosha along with his human sister, Wanda, and Lorna. It was on this day Magnus revealed he was truly their father and invited them to join him in running the world. They accepted, and the House of M was formed.

Recently, Magnus has urged his son to woo Ororo, the mutant Queen of Kenya. Pietro truly cares for her, but his attempts have been unfruitful up to this point. He remains completely devoted to his father despite Magnus' frequently cold attitude towards him.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Quicksilver possesses superhuman speed, and can travel on foot at speeds exceeding the speed of sound for hundreds of miles before tiring; he can also use his speed to create cyclones, and run up walls and across water.

Lorna Art by Scot Eaton

Quicksilver Art by Trevor Hairsine

REAL NAME: Wanda
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Known worldwide as a member of the House of M
OCCUPATION: Royalty
PLACE OF BIRTH: Wundagore, Transia, Europe
CITIZENSHIP: Formerly Transia, currently House of M
KNOWN RELATIVES: Magnus (Magneto, father), Magda (mother, deceased), Anya (sister, deceased), Pietro (Quicksilver, brother), Lorna (half-sister), Tyler (son), unnamed grandparents (deceased), unnamed aunt (deceased), unnamed children, nieces, and nephews
GROUP AFFILIATION: House of M
EDUCATION: Unknown
HEIGHT: 5'7" WEIGHT: 132 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: Auburn

Wanda

HISTORY: Little is known about the daughter of Magnus save that she is the sister of Quicksilver, the heir to the House of M. The speedster is extremely protective of his sister, and during her rare public appearances he is never away from her side. A non-mutant, Wanda is rarely seen in public. She is, however, constant fodder for the tabloid press, a situation which irks Magnus to no end.

Wanda has children but, outside of the royal family, it is unknown who the father is. Some believe one possible father could be popular television star Simon Williams, known as Wonder Man, but that is merely speculation. Many believe it is because of his daughter's human genes that Magneto has been so merciful to the lesser race that attempted to enslave his people.

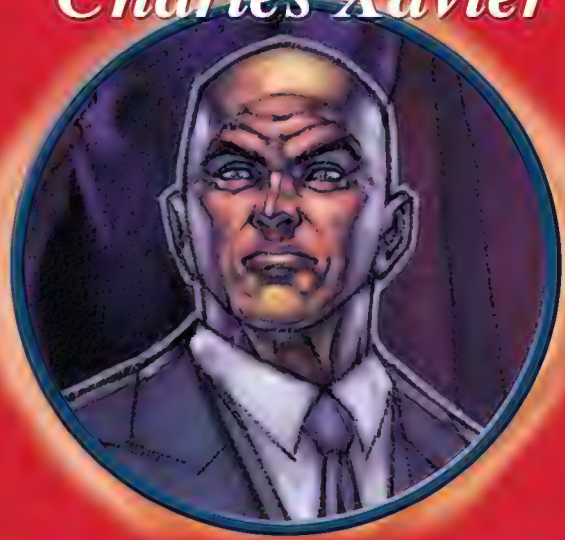
REAL NAME: Charles Francis Xavier
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Mutant rights activist
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, New York
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.
KNOWN RELATIVES: Brian (father, deceased), Sharon (mother, deceased), Kurt Marko (step-father, deceased), Cain Marko (Juggernaut, stepbrother), David Charles Haller (son)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: PH.Ds in genetics, biophysics, psychology, anthropology, and psychiatry
HEIGHT: 6' WEIGHT: 190 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: Bald (blond in childhood)

Charles Xavier

HISTORY: Charles Xavier was the son of nuclear researcher Brian Xavier and his wife, Sharon. His mutant abilities surfaced shortly after his father died and his mother remarried. During an abusive act by his stepfather against his stepbrother Cain, Charles mentally commanded his stepfather never to raise a hand to another human being again. In the years that followed, Charles rarely used his powers, preferring to keep them hidden.

Eventually, mutants began to appear around the world and the man named Magneto emerged to lead them. At first, Charles was hesitant to side with Magneto; but he was eventually convinced that Magneto's belief that mutants should inherit the Earth was correct. Charles became Magneto's most trusted confidante. Their first order of business was to take down the island of Genosha and to free its slave mutant population. The two were successful, but Charles has not been seen since.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Charles Xavier is a mutant who possesses vast psionic powers, making him arguably the world's most powerful telepath. Among these powers is the ability to read minds and project his thoughts into the minds of others.



Wanda Art by George Pérez

Charles Xavier Art by Andy Park

S.H.I.E.L.D.

The Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-enforcement Division was created to be a worldwide intelligence and peacekeeping organization dedicated to protecting the nations and peoples of Earth from all threats to its security. Under Director Nick Fury, S.H.I.E.L.D. was very good at its job. Unfortunately, part of its mission was to contain the increased threat from the mutant population which led Nick Fury into direct conflict with the man who would rule Earth, Magneto. Following Magneto's victory, Fury was branded an outlaw and went into hiding.

Under the command of Sebastian Shaw, S.H.I.E.L.D. is completely loyal to Magneto and his beliefs. They work with him to keep the dominant mutant population of the planet in control. Using a combination of mutant agents, human agents, and Sentinels, S.H.I.E.L.D. is an example of the new world order established by Magneto and his victory over those human oppressors who wished mutantkind destroyed.

The Red Guard, led by agent James Howlett, codenamed Wolverine, is the agency's top strike force.

Art by Esad Ribic

Wolverine

REAL NAME: James Howlett
KNOWN ALIASES: Numerous identites used temporarily while undercover
IDENTITY: Known to S.H.I.E.L.D
OCCUPATION: Commander of the Red Guard section of S.H.I.E.L.D., instructor, government operative
PLACE OF BIRTH: Alberta, Canada
CITIZENSHIP: Canada
KNOWN RELATIVES: Unnamed grandfather (deceased), John Sr. (father, deceased), Elizabeth (mother, deceased), John Jr. (brother, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: S.H.I.E.L.D., Red Guard
EDUCATION: Privately tutored as a child
HEIGHT: 5'3"
WEIGHT: 300 lbs. (with Adamantium skeleton)
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Black

HISTORY: James Howlett is a mutant who has been alive for over a century. Over the years, James' mind has undergone numerous traumas, including scientific tampering by clandestine organizations, which have made it impossible for him to remember his true past. What he is left with is bits and pieces of memory and no way to tell when, and if, many of the events actually took place.

What is clear is that, prior to the Mutant-Human War, James, codenamed Wolverine, was a key operative in the S.H.I.E.L.D. organization. Trained by some of the best military men on the planet, including Nick Fury and Frank Castle, Wolverine was used in only the most covert of operations. Because his superiors knew of his Mutant nature, he was kept away from the Mutant-Human War. It was only when the war was all but lost that his superiors decided to brainwash Wolverine into carrying out an assassination attempt on the mutants' leader, Magneto. The mission never took place. With mutants victorious, S.H.I.E.L.D. was temporarily shut down. James was released from his solitary quarters and discovered a brave new mutant world.

As S.H.I.E.L.D. was restructured by its new Director, Sebastian Shaw, Wolverine was placed in charge of a special squad of mutants known as the Red Guard. It was here he met his current lover, Mystique. The Red Guard has been used almost exclusively to hunt down human terrorists and non-mutant superhuman threats. It has been more than up to the task with a 100 percent success rate. With family and friends, and a new place in the world, James was finally content.

Unfortunately, things have changed. James has begun to have nightmares causing him to question his own life and the world itself. He has attempted to drown these with alcohol and painkillers but this has proved unsuccessful. Though he hates the idea of anyone "mucking" around in his head, he even turned to the S.H.I.E.L.D. telepaths for help, but they failed.

These images have become more visceral and have led Wolverine to make some questionable decisions in the field. Those decisions have led Sebastian Shaw and his team, including Mystique, to question Wolverine's sanity and future role in S.H.I.E.L.D.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Wolverine is a mutant who possesses the ability to heal from most injuries. He has immunity to poisons and most drugs, an enhanced resistance to diseases, and an extended lifespan due to slowed effects of the aging process. Wolverine also possesses superhumanly acute senses and six retractable one-foot-long bone claws, three in each arm. His skeleton's Adamantium coating prevents his bones from being broken.

Art by Joe Quesada

S.H.I.E.L.D.

REAL NAME: Jessica Drew
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent
PLACE OF BIRTH: London, England
CITIZENSHIP: United Kingdom

KNOWN RELATIVES: Jonathan (father, deceased), Merriem (mother, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: S.H.I.E.L.D., Red Guard
EDUCATION: College
HEIGHT: 5'10" WEIGHT: 130 lbs.
EYES: Green HAIR: Brown, dyed black

Jessica Drew

HISTORY: Prior to her recruitment into S.H.I.E.L.D., Jessica Drew spent years in suspended animation due to suffering uranium poisoning in 1931, being treated with an experimental spider-serum and genetic accelerator. She recovered just in time to see Magneto begin his mutant revolution. When Jessica discovered she had developed special abilities, she used her abilities for good, but she did not seem to commit to mutantkind or humankind.

Jessica Drew was one of the first super-powered members recruited by S.H.I.E.L.D. Director Nick Fury, but she did not complete her training in time to be a factor in the war between humans and mutants. Jessica was promoted to active status just in time to be placed on Wolverine's Red Guard squad by new S.H.I.E.L.D Director Sebastian Shaw. In the news, she was declared a human super-operative and an example of what humans can accomplish. Some view her as the token "human" on the team, but the Red Guard knows her worth and treats her as an equal.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Jessica Drew possesses superhuman strength which allows her to lift/press close to 7 tons. Besides superhuman strength, Jessica also possesses superhuman endurance and speed. She can also project bioelectric blasts and adhere to surfaces, has an immunity to all poisons and drugs, and projects pheromones which attract males and repulse females.

REAL NAME: Unknown
KNOWN ALIASES: Raven Darkhölme, numerous others used temporarily while undercover
IDENTITY: Known to S.H.I.E.L.D.
OCCUPATION: S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unknown
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: Kurt (Nightcrawler, son), Anna Marie (Rogue, adopted daughter)
GROUP AFFILIATION: S.H.I.E.L.D., Red Guard
EDUCATION: S.H.I.E.L.D. training
HEIGHT: 5'10" (variable) WEIGHT: 120 lbs.
EYES: Yellow, no visible pupils (variable)
HAIR: Red (variable)

Mystique

HISTORY: Mystique has come a long way since the House of M came into power. During her youth, Mystique used her shape-changing abilities to move from place to place and get what she wanted. It was not until the triumph of Magneto that she saw the possibilities. During this time, she was recruited by Sebastian Shaw to become a part of S.H.I.E.L.D.

Mystique has recently begun a relationship with her commanding officer, Wolverine. He has been undergoing some emotional trauma of late and Mystique is uncertain how to deal with this. It is clear, however, that she cares very deeply for him and will do anything for him.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Mystique can psionically shift the atoms of her body to duplicate any humanoid of either sex, wearing any kind of clothing. She can precisely duplicate another person's retinal pattern, fingerprints, palm and skin-pore patterns, and vocal cords. She can increase her volume, but not her mass. Mystique's power grants her age retardation, increased healing, and immunity to drugs and poisons.

Art by Olivier Coipel

REAL NAME: Kurt Darkhöme
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Known to S.H.I.E.L.D.
OCCUPATION: Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.
PLACE OF BIRTH: Bavaria, Germany
CITIZENSHIP: Dual citizenship, Germany and U.S.A.
KNOWN RELATIVES: Mystique (mother), Anna Marie (Rogue, adopted sister), Azazel (father)
GROUP AFFILIATION: S.H.I.E.L.D., Red Guard
EDUCATION: S.H.I.E.L.D. training
HEIGHT: 5'9" WEIGHT: 161 lbs.
EYES: Shining yellow, no visible pupils HAIR: Indigo

Nightcrawler

HISTORY: Kurt Darkhöme was born in Germany during the height of mutant-human animosity. With his obvious mutant appearance, his mother, Mystique, was forced to make a choice — abandon the child or hide him. Mystique chose to go into hiding and stay with her son. With the rise of Magneto and his mutant family, Mystique and Kurt emerged from hiding into a new world, one in which mutants were embraced. Seeing new opportunities in this mutant-run world, Mystique traveled to America with Kurt and was recruited by Sebastian Shaw into S.H.I.E.L.D. Kurt grew to adulthood as a part of S.H.I.E.L.D. and has trained since his early teens to be an agent by his mother's side. He regards her and his adopted sister, Rogue, as the most important people in his life. Kurt is an integral member of Wolverine's special squad of mutants, the Red Guard. Since Wolverine and his mother have become romantically involved, Kurt has grown a bit distant. He does not believe Wolverine is good enough for his mother, and the two rarely see eye to eye on anything.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Nightcrawler is a mutant who can teleport by opening a portal into another dimension, traveling through it via an unconscious direction-finding sense and returning to his own dimension. The entrance to this other dimension constantly surrounds him, distorting light so that he constantly appears to be in shadow, and in poor lighting becomes virtually invisible. Nightcrawler can stick to walls.

REAL NAME: Anna Marie Darkhölme
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Known to S.H.I.E.L.D.
OCCUPATION: Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.
PLACE OF BIRTH: Caldecott County, Mississippi
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.
KNOWN RELATIVES: Owen (father, deceased), Priscilla (mother, deceased), Carrie (aunt), Mystique (adopted mother), Kurt Darkhölme (Nightcrawler, adopted brother)
GROUP AFFILIATION: S.H.I.E.L.D., Red Guard
EDUCATION: College
HEIGHT: 5'8" WEIGHT: 120 lbs.
EYES: Green HAIR: Brown with white streak

Rogue

HISTORY: Rogue's parents died in the early days of the Human-Mutant War. Rogue was placed in a human orphanage until it was discovered she was actually a mutant.

Upon discovering her mutant abilities, the government sent two S.H.I.E.L.D. Agents, Mystique and Madame Web, S.H.I.E.L.D.'s resident telepath, to the orphanage. They were able to convince the girl to come with them to S.H.I.E.L.D. and to train as an agent. With her unique mutant abilities, it was obvious to S.H.I.E.L.D. Director Sebastian Shaw that Rogue would be a perfect agent. During her training, Rogue was adopted by Mystique and the two have a very strong bond.

Rogue has become a superb agent, joining her adopted mother and brother, Nightcrawler, as members of Wolverine's elite squad of S.H.I.E.L.D. Agents, The Red Guard.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Rogue is a mutant who possesses the ability to absorb the memories, abilities, personalities, superhuman powers, and outward physical characteristics of other beings through skin-to-skin contact. Rogue cannot come into skin-on-skin contact with anyone without risk of imprinting them.

Art by Olivier Coipel

S.H.I.E.L.D.

Sentinels

Sentinels are large robots originally designed to hunt those with the mutant gene. They were created by Dr. Bolivar Trask in an attempt to prevent the "Mutant Menace" from spreading and to be a deterrent to mutant attacks. They were programmed not only to track mutants, but to apprehend them as well. If the subject did not come voluntarily, the Sentinels were also programmed to kill.

The original Mark I Sentinels were dealt with quickly by mutants. As time went on, more impressive models, including the Mark II and Alpha, were put into play — Sentinels meant not only for hunting, but also for killing. Instead of frightening the mutant population, however, this only rallied them behind Magneto and his fight to free mutants around the world from their human oppressors.

As Magneto's army grew, thousands of new Omega Sentinels were put into production. These Sentinels were the cutting edge of technology and may have been the turning point in the Mutant-Human war. If not for the victory of Magneto over the existing Sentinel army in New York City, this newest wave of Sentinels would have been unleashed on the world, with devastating effects to the mutant population.

Since the rise of Magneto, the Sentinels have been tapped for a different service and are under the control of the Director of S.H.I.E.L.D., Sebastian Shaw. They now patrol the skies, keeping the human populace in line. The irony of this is not lost on those humans who remember when they were used for a much different purpose.

REAL NAME: Sebastian Hiram Shaw
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Director of S.H.I.E.L.D
PLACE OF BIRTH: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A
KNOWN RELATIVES: Jacob (father, deceased), Esau (uncle, deceased), Cornelius (grandfather, deceased), unnamed wife, unnamed son, Elizabeth Shaw, Hiram Shaw, Obadiah Shaw (ancestors, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: S.H.I.E.L.D.
EDUCATION: S.H.I.E.L.D.
HEIGHT: 6'1" WEIGHT: 210 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: Grey

Sebastian Shaw

HISTORY: Sebastian Shaw, the CEO and principal shareholder of Shaw Industries, was responsible for much of the technology used in the designs of the Sentinel technology. When he discovered he was a mutant, he shut the program down — but by then, it was too late. The technology was already available and the hunt for mutants was on.

At this time, Magneto rose to prominence. Shaw joined Magneto in his quest to end humankind's mutant oppression and helped to sabotage many of the Sentinels due to his knowledge of the technology.

After Magneto's triumph over humankind, he placed Shaw in charge of S.H.I.E.L.D. and retooled the Sentinel program to protect mutants. Shaw is currently the Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. and seems more dedicated than ever to preventing a recent human uprising — led by his human predecessor, Nick Fury — from becoming more widespread.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Sebastian Shaw is a mutant with the ability to absorb kinetic energy and convert it into physical strength and agility.

Sentinels Art by Olivier Coipel

Sebastian Shaw Art Javier Saltares

REAL NAME: Mortimer Toynbee
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D., author
PLACE OF BIRTH: York, England
CITIZENSHIP: United Kingdom

KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: The Brotherhood, S.H.I.E.L.D., Red Guard
EDUCATION: High School, S.H.I.E.L.D. training
HEIGHT: 5'10" WEIGHT: 195 lbs.
EYES: Brown HAIR: Brown

Toad

HISTORY: Mortimer was a mutant outcast until Magneto invited him to join his quest for mutant rights. As The Toad, Mortimer became an integral piece of Magneto's Brotherhood and he was right by Magneto's side during all of the greatest mutant victories, including the final battle in Central Park which led to mutant supremacy.

After the triumph of Magneto, the Toad was asked to join the mutant-run S.H.I.E.L.D. He has served admirably under the command of Wolverine in the Red Guard. Recently, Mortimer completed a book detailing the early days of Magneto's triumphant rebellion for mutant rights.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Toad's mutant ability is centered on his unbelievable strength in his lower body. He has unusually well-developed muscles in his legs and can use them to leap great heights and deliver devastating blows. He also has a toadlike elongating tongue which can be used to grab or strike his targets.

REAL NAME: Cassandra Webb
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Known to S.H.I.E.L.D.
OCCUPATION: S.H.I.E.L.D. Psi-Division
PLACE OF BIRTH: Salem, Oregon
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: Jonathan (husband, deceased), Charlotte Witter (granddaughter)
GROUP AFFILIATION: S.H.I.E.L.D.
EDUCATION: S.H.I.E.L.D. Psi-training
HEIGHT: 5'6" WEIGHT: 110 lbs.
EYES: Pale gray HAIR: Black

Madame Web

HISTORY: Though Cassandra Webb suffered from a lifetime of blindness and many years of neurological deterioration, she compensated with her profound psychic abilities, establishing herself as a medium. Her considerable talents brought her to the attention of the United States government. Initially recruited into S.H.I.E.L.D. prior to the explosion of mutants across the world, Webb was a considerable find. In her early days with S.H.I.E.L.D., she was used as a code breaker and interrogator. She was one of the best.

With the recent changes in S.H.I.E.L.D. and the ascension of mutants, bringing in more telepaths, Webb's role has changed, but she is no less important. Webb now works as a link between many of the young telepaths being used to monitor S.H.I.E.L.D. agents across the world. She also soothes some of those agents who may have undergone some mind-tampering in their past. Her most frequent customer is Wolverine.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Madame Web is a mutant who possesses psychic abilities including telepathy, clairvoyance, and prescience. She can also perform astral projection and appear to others in spirit form.

Toad Art by Olivier Coipel Madame Web Art by Bart Sears

Mutants

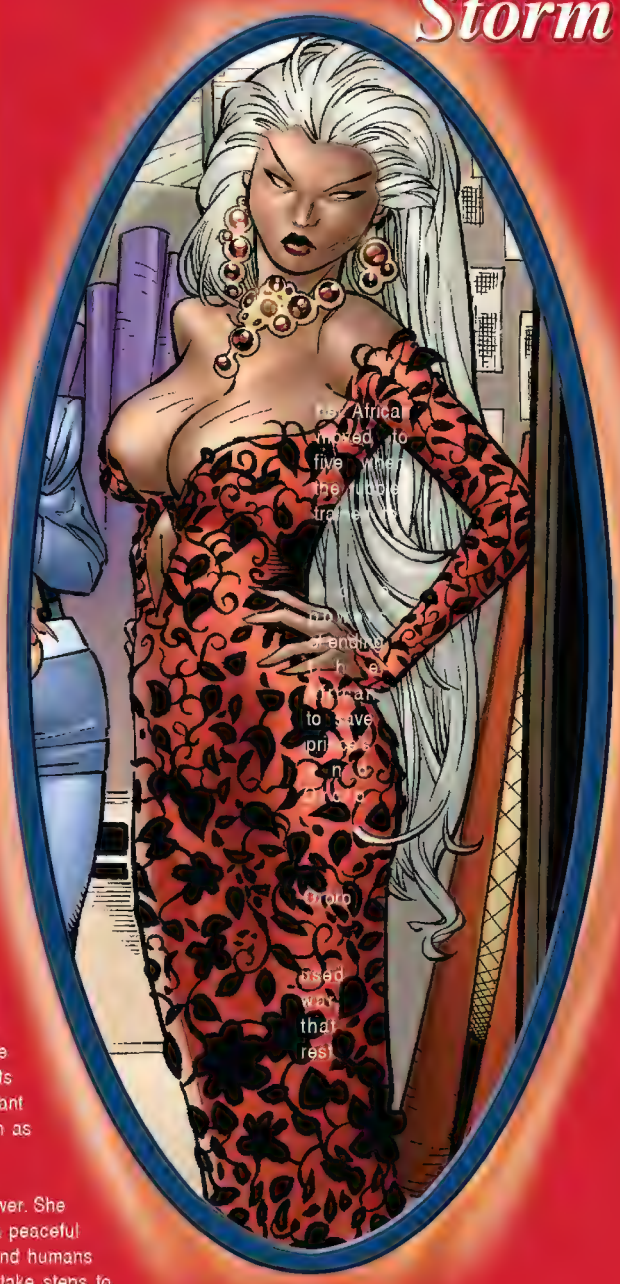
Once on the verge of extinction, mutants are now the inheritors of the Earth. Years after the victory of Homo Superior over their genetic cousins, the weaker Homo Sapiens, it is clear this is how it was always meant to be. The strong survive. Even though humans attempted to destroy mutantkind before the genetic tree could bear all of its fruit, mutants were able to rally under the leadership of Magneto and triumph. The culture of the Homo Superior is now the dominant culture; and within two to three more generations of humans being bred out of society, it will be the only culture.

Today, with the help of the reprogrammed Sentinels to keep humans in line, mutants live in a world free of fear for their safety. As mutants advance the world in ways humans never imagined, Magneto and his House of M seem poised to rule over a Mutant Utopia. It is a dream come true for most mutants... a dream made possible by the will of Magneto.

Art by Esad Ribic

Storm

REAL NAME: Ororo Munroe
KNOWN ALIASES: Storm, Windrider
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Queen of Kenya, Ruler
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, New York
CITIZENSHIP: Dual citizenship in United States and Kenya
KNOWN RELATIVES: David (father, deceased), N'Dare (mother, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: College
HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 127 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: White



HISTORY: Ororo Munroe was born in New York City to mother, N'Dare, and her photojournalist father, David. They Cairo, where Ororo's parents were killed when she was a plane crashed into their home. Ororo managed to escape and was taken in by a small gang of street urchins and survive on the streets as a thief.

In her teens, Ororo left Cairo and traveled south, deeply into Africa. As she traveled and her mutant developed, she became known as the Windrider, capable droughts with the wave of her hand. Her legend grew across continent. It was during this time that she met T'Challa, the prince of the nation of Wakanda. Storm used her powers T'Challa's life from the first of many mutant attacks on the kingdom. Ororo spent time in Wakanda following the attack became very close to T'Challa. T'Challa eventually asked to marry him, but she refused him.

During the subsequent years, and following the emergence of Magneto and his army of mutants across the world, decided to use her powers for the good of Africa.

With most of Africa embroiled in Mutant-Human civil wars, Ororo her powers for peace, and after helping Kenya out of a deadly civil she was embraced by its people as their queen. In the months followed, Ororo was instrumental in Magneto's victory over the of Africa, minus Wakanda, and was key in making sure mutants and humans escaped the conflict unscathed. After installing mutant leadership in Africa, Magneto allowed Ororo to keep her position as queen of Kenya.

Queen Ororo of Kenya has helped to turn Africa into a world power. She has made it the world's breadbasket and continues to make it a peaceful place for humans and mutants to live. Her beliefs on mutants and humans have left her at odds with Magneto, and he has attempted to take steps to rectify that by suggesting his son, Quicksilver, court her. Magneto sees the union as a next step towards world rule, while Quicksilver appears to be truly in love with Ororo. While Ororo does like Quicksilver, it is clear Ororo has some distaste for Magneto's rule and may be working secretly with T'Challa to change things on a worldwide scale.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Storm is a mutant with the ability to manipulate the weather systems of the Earth over a large area and has used these abilities to make major changes to the weather patterns in Africa. She can fly on the winds and summon bolts of lightning from the sky.

Art by Olivier Coipel

Apocalypse

REAL NAME: En Sabah Nur
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Ruler of North Africa
PLACE OF BIRTH: Akkaba, Egypt
CITIZENSHIP: Egypt

KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: House of M, Horsemen
EDUCATION: Millenia of studies and experience
HEIGHT: 6'8" (variable) WEIGHT: 300 lbs. (variable)
EYES: Blue HAIR: None

HISTORY: Approximately 5,000 years old, Apocalypse is a virtually immortal mutant. By the end of the Mutant-Human War, Apocalypse was seen as one of Magneto's most trusted lieutenants, but it was not always that way. The two came to blows early in the war, battling over the right to lead mutantkind. Apocalypse lost, but instead of destroying him, Magneto offered Apocalypse a place by his side. Apocalypse, surprised by his rival's generosity, accepted the offer. Magneto gave Apocalypse a crucial mission — to free the hundreds of captured mutants held in mutant camps across the United States. Apocalypse succeeded, and those freed mutants were crucial in the eventual mutant victory.

Recently, Magneto placed Apocalypse in charge of North Africa. Against Magneto's wishes, Apocalypse and his Horsemen have enslaved the human population and forced them to reconstruct Egyptian landmarks. While this is not in the spirit of Magneto's policy of tolerance of humans, it appears Magnus chooses to turn a blind eye towards Apocalypse's actions.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Apocalypse is a mutant with the ability to alter his atomic structure. He does not seem to need sustenance of any kind, and can recover from devastating physical injuries that would kill most humans and mutants. Apocalypse possesses superhuman strength and can lift/press close to 20 tons, though he can draw mass and energy from other sources to enhance his strength to unknown limits.

Bishop

REAL NAME: Lucas Bishop
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: NYPD officer
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unknown
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: New York Police Department
EDUCATION: Unrevealed
HEIGHT: 6'6" WEIGHT: 275 lbs.
EYES: Brown, red when using powers HAIR: Black

HISTORY: Lucas Bishop remembers little of his past. During the early days of his career, Bishop was critically injured chasing down a mutant criminal named Fitzroy escaping into Hell's Kitchen. Bishop killed Fitzroy in an intense showdown, but sustained a severe head injury. In a coma for close to three weeks, Bishop finally recovered but awoke with severe memory loss.

After months of rehab, Bishop returned to his rightful place on the mutant-filled New York police force. While he has been an exemplary officer since his return, his superiors have noticed his obsession with researching his past. Oddly enough, Bishop's records are missing, and with no known family in the area, it seems possible Bishop may never discover where he truly came from.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Bishop is a mutant with the power to absorb energy, either ambient energy or that directed towards him, and to project that energy from his body in the form of concussive blasts. Bishop can also store absorbed energy within his personal reserves, whereupon the energy increases his strength and recuperative abilities, as well as affording him a measure of invulnerability.

Apocalypse Art by Trevor Hairsine Bishop Art by Andy Park

REAL NAME: Alison Blaire
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Former teen pop star, now host of the *Alison* talk show
PLACE OF BIRTH: Gardendale, New York
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: Bella (grandmother), Carter (father), Katherine (mother, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: High School
HEIGHT: 5'9" WEIGHT: 115 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: Strawberry Blonde

Dazzler

HISTORY: Alison grew up under the watchful eye of her lawyer father on Long Island. Always eager to perform, Alison was a talented singer who was unable to catch any breaks — until the day she became a mutant. With the ability to transform sound into light, Alison became an overnight sensation in a world looking for the next big mutant act. She became the biggest pop star in the world, selling millions of records and performing in front of stadiums full of loyal fans.

Unfortunately, like all teen idols, her star eventually faded and she drifted from the public eye. After years in obscurity, the woman once known as Dazzler discovered her new calling as the host of her own talk show, *Alison*. Able to shed her pop past, Alison is known for her ability to get not only the biggest mutant heroes to do her show, but also political leaders. *Alison* is the place mutants and humans turn to find out what's hot in the mutant world. It is currently the most popular talk show in America, and perhaps the world.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Dazzler is a mutant able to convert sound waves into light.

REAL NAME: Robert Louis Drake
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Horseman of Apocalypse
PLACE OF BIRTH: Fort Washington, Long Island, New York
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: William (father), Madeline (mother)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Horseman of Apocalypse
EDUCATION: College Degree
HEIGHT: 5'8" WEIGHT: 145 lbs.
EYES: Brown HAIR: Brown

Iceman

HISTORY: Bobby Drake discovered his mutant power to create ice while in his early teens, yet kept his condition hidden from everyone but his parents. When the Mutant-Human War began, Bobby's father turned him in to the authorities, figuring it would be safer for him to be in captivity than to be a renegade mutant. Fortunately, while in captivity, Bobby was freed by Apocalypse during the raid of the Alamo Mutant Camp. Feeling abandoned by his parents and believing himself to be an outcast, Bobby jumped at the chance to become a member of Apocalypse's Horsemen. Like all Horsemen, his mutant abilities were amplified by Apocalypse's technology.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Iceman is able to lower his external and internal body temperature, thereby radiating intense cold from his body. He is able to reach -105 degrees Fahrenheit within a few seconds. In addition, Iceman can freeze any moisture in the air around him into unusually hard ice.

Dazzler Art by Olivier Coipel

Iceman Art by Trevor Hairsine

REAL NAME: Henry "Hank" P. McCoy
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Biochemist
PLACE OF BIRTH: Dunfee, Illinois
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: Sadie (grandmother), Edna (mother), Norton (father), Robert (uncle)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Stark Industries
EDUCATION: Ph.D. in Biochemistry
HEIGHT: 5'11" WEIGHT: 300 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: Black

Hank McCoy

HISTORY: Unlike most mutants, Hank showed signs of mutation from birth. Since he had always appeared different and it was believed most mutants evolved during their teens, Henry did not endure the oppression other mutants dealt with. Because of that, he spent most of the Mutant-Human War in relative obscurity, working on his Ph. D. in Biochemistry. It was not until well after Magneto's triumph over the humans that Henry was officially labelled a mutant during a census screening at the college where he taught.

Welcomed into the mutant community, Henry flourished as an academic. Magnus placed him in the employ of Tony Stark at Stark Industries to monitor Sentinel and biological programs being conducted there. He is considered an expert on mutation and human biology and is currently supervising the Vision Project.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Hank's superhuman strength enables him to lift/press 2 tons under optimal conditions. He also possesses superhuman agility, dexterity, endurance, and speed, despite his bulk.

REAL NAME: Layla Miller
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Secret, unregistered mutant
OCCUPATION: Student, fledgling underworld criminal
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, New York
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: P.S. 45, Luke Cage's underworld organization in Hell's Kitchen
EDUCATION: Unfinished high-school education
HEIGHT: 5' WEIGHT: 100 lbs.
EYES: Green HAIR: Strawberry blonde

Layla Miller

HISTORY: Layla Miller only recently discovered she was a mutant. What is normally considered a time of celebration, a chance to dramatically improve her life, was not one for Layla. Her mutant powers apparently allow her to see a different reality than this one — a world where the Mutant-Human War never happened and mutants are still persecuted for being genetically superior to humans.

Confused and afraid, Layla left her house hoping to forget what she learned or at least to find help. Instead she ran into Luke Cage, the leader of an underground Sapien resistance group. Layla was able to telepathically show Luke Cage that world as well. A world where Luke was a super hero instead of a wanted terrorist; a world where he was expecting a child with a woman he didn't even know existed here. Uncertain what to do, Luke brought her back to his safehouse in Hell's Kitchen. What this means to Layla, or to the others she connects to this other world, remains to be seen.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Layla is a mutant able to pierce the veil between divergent realities. She possesses undeveloped psychic abilities, as well, and may be able to alter reality.

Hank McCoy Art by Olivier Coipel

Layla Miller Art by Esad Ribic

With thousands of mutants evolving every day, the world needs a place to train the best and the brightest for a higher calling. Those young mutants lucky enough to have the genetic gifts that put them a cut above other mutants in the world are enrolled to train to be the leaders and soldiers of tomorrow.

Split into two separate academies, the schools are exclusive to mutants and offer a chance for gifted children to improve the world around them. One school produces skilled leaders and diplomats while the other trains S.H.I.E.L.D. Magnus Agents.

Mutant Institute

Professor Xi'an "Shan" Coy Manh is in charge of training the more cerebrally gifted mutants at the New Mutant Leadership Institute. Located on the very site where the United Nations building used to be in New York City, the students are reminded every day of the need to solve problems diplomatically in order to prevent another Mutant-Human War from ever happening again. Currently, students like Jubilee, Quentin Quire, and the Stepford Cuckoos train to make a difference in the world by using their special gifts.

The Magnus Agent hopefuls attend a military school located on the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier, giving the students a first-hand look at the life they are about to embark on. The most skilled teacher at the school, a woman responsible for some of the most complete Magnus Agents S.H.I.E.L.D. has ever produced, is Agent Dani Moonstar. Currently Dani is training a squad of future agents nicknamed The Hellions. The Hellions are Julian Keller, Wind Dancer, Surge, Magik, Quill, and Synch. Other teachers at the S.H.I.E.L.D. training facility include twin speedsters Northstar and his sister Aurora, as well as the mutant werewolf Wolfsbane.

The schools are wildly competitive, often recruiting the same students for their classes. This competitiveness has carried over into a rivalry in recent years. Regardless of where a young mutant ends up, those lucky enough to be chosen for either school are looking at a lifetime of service to the mutant community and the world. It is an honor that few have refused.

Mutopia is an experimental community made up solely of mutants. Known for its amazing culture and exciting nightlife, Mutopia is the place to be for exciting movie premieres starring Peter Parker and even human actress Mary Jane Watson. Recently, rising pop star Jazz has been performing sold-out concerts there as well.

Mutopia

One of the most interesting aspects of Mutopia is the Temple of Mutopia located on the border between Mutopia and Sapien Town. The Temple is the center of a religious movement led by the enigmatic Absolon Mercator. It is also the main site of Mutant Transcendence, a controversial process which claims to transform those Sapiens deemed worthy into mutants. While many people believe this to be a scam, others swear by the process and treat Absolon with great reverence.

Many leaders believe having two radically different societies, Mutopia and Sapien Town, adjacent to each other is asking for trouble. Magnus has pointed out in multiple speeches that these two societies living in such close proximity demonstrates humans and mutants can live peacefully together — at least for the short time humans have left on the planet.

Unfortunately, peace has been sporadic at best. Mutopia and its mutant citizens have been the targets of terrorists, among them the Human Resistance Movement and the Sapien League. This has led to a temporary increase in Sentinel patrols. Surprisingly, this dangerous atmosphere has done little to prevent visitors, famous or otherwise, from visiting this thriving site of mutant life at its purest.

Mutant Institute Art by Aaron Lopresti

Mutopia Art by Andy Park

REAL NAME: Namor McKenzie
KNOWN ALIASES: The Avenging Son
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Monarch
PLACE OF BIRTH: Antarctic capital of the Atlantean Empire
CITIZENSHIP: Ruler of Atlantis

KNOWN RELATIVES: Marrina (wife); Fen (mother, deceased); Leonard McKenzie (father, deceased), Dorma, Byrrah (cousins), Thakorr (grandfather), Korra (grandmother), unnamed son, many others
GROUP AFFILIATION: Atlantean Royal Court, Invaders
EDUCATION: Educated by the royal tutors of the Atlantean court
HEIGHT: 6'2" WEIGHT: 278 lbs.
EYES: Blue-gray HAIR: Black

Namor

HISTORY: It is widely believed Namor was the world's first mutant hero. He first appeared in 1939, off the cost of Southampton, New York. Namor encountered two humans in diving suits and, seeing they were in danger, he helped them to the surface. Discovering a new world outside the vast sea, Namor began to explore. He found a world at war. Namor joined the Allies' super soldiers, the Invaders, and helped them defeat the Axis powers in Europe. Tired of war, Namor returned to his undersea kingdom and eventually became ruler. Busy beneath the sea, Namor had little contact with the surface.

Today, Namor occasionally returns to the surface world but seems to be discouraged by the current state of affairs. He deals with Magnus and his royal family from time to time, but it is clear Namor does not approve of the way Magnus rules the planet. It may be only a matter of time before Namor returns to the surface world and joins a new war — one against his mutant brothers and sisters.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Namor possesses a high level of superhuman strength, enabling him to lift/press up to 100 tons while in contact with water; his strength gradually decreases according to the length of time he is out of water. Namor also has superhuman stamina and durability. He also possesses superhuman agility, reflexes, and speed, and can fly. His body is adapted to survive indefinitely on land or underwater, though he weakens significantly when out of water over time.

REAL NAME: Katherine "Kitty" Pryde
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Teacher
PLACE OF BIRTH: Deerfield, Illinois
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: Carmen (father), Theresa (mother), Samuel (grandfather)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Masters degree in Education
HEIGHT: 5'6" WEIGHT: 110 lbs.
EYES: Hazel HAIR: Brown

Kitty Pryde

HISTORY: Katherine "Kitty" Pryde was a 13-year-old girl whose genius level intellect would have allowed her to take college level courses at a young age. Instead, her parents opted to keep her with her friends so she would be better adjusted. This turned out to be to her advantage because she spent much of her fourteenth year battling headaches caused by her mutation, which had turned her intangible. After months of mutant counseling, and finally gaining control of her powers, Kitty returned to classes.

Finishing as Valedictorian of her senior class, Pryde scored off the charts on all her college entrance exams. She was approached to join S.H.I.E.L.D. on her eighteenth birthday by Sebastian Shaw, but she turned the opportunity down. She instead chose to enter college and become a teacher. She currently teaches sixth grade at Clinton Elementary School in Cincinnati, OH.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Kitty is a mutant with the ability to "phase" through solid material. She is able to become ghostlike and pass through solid matter as if it were not there. This power wreaks havoc with electrical systems.

Namor Art by Mike Mayhew Kitty Pryde Art by Olivier Coipel

REAL NAME: Piotr Nikolaievitch Rasputin
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Farmer
PLACE OF BIRTH: Russia
CITIZENSHIP: Russia

KNOWN RELATIVES: Nikolai (father), Alexandra (mother), Mikhail (brother), Iliyana (sister), Vladimir (uncle)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: High School
HEIGHT: 6'6" (normal), 7'5" (transformed)
WEIGHT: 250 lbs. (normal), 500 lbs. (transformed)
EYES: Blue (normal) Silver (transformed) HAIR: Black

Piotr Rasputin

HISTORY: Piotr Rasputin was born on a farming enclave in Russia. He planned to follow in the footsteps of his older brother Mikhail and become a Russian Cosmonaut, but before he could, Russia was thrown into chaos by the rise of Magneto. In the months that followed, Russia was torn apart by a civil war prompted by Magneto's rise to prominence as a mutant leader. Piotr, who had recently developed his mutant abilities, longed to join a side but could not leave his family's farm for fear that something might happen to them while he was gone. He defended his community from minor human and mutant attacks and became the mutant shield of his community.

Now, years later, with the Mutant Wars over and Magneto firmly in control, Piotr has taken over his family's farm and has a life of his own. He is content as a farmer and plans on starting a family of his own someday.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Piotr Rasputin is a mutant with the ability to convert the tissue of his body into organic steel while retaining his full range of mobility. This steel form gives him superhuman strength, enabling him to lift/press close to 85 tons under optimal conditions, as well as protection from physical damage.

REAL NAME: Victor Creed
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Unknown to the majority of humans and mutants
OCCUPATION: Assassin
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unknown
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A. with a criminal record

KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: House of M
EDUCATION: Unknown
HEIGHT: 6'11" WEIGHT: 275 lbs.
EYES: Amber HAIR: Blond

Sabretooth

HISTORY: Little is known of Victor Creed's past prior to his involvement in the Mutant-Human War. Used primarily as an assassin and one of Magneto's most vicious agents, Sabretooth is unknown to the majority of humans and mutants. He was responsible for the murder of Robert Kelly, the United States Senator who was also the head of the Council on Mutant Affairs.

Following the end of the war, Sabretooth traveled to a small town in Alberta, Canada. While there, he lost all control and began slaughtering humans recklessly. Magneto, who was in the process of cementing his hold on the world, contacted S.H.I.E.L.D.'s Sebastian Shaw and asked them to deal with the situation. S.H.I.E.L.D. sent in the Red Guard led by Wolverine and they took Sabretooth down.

After years in prison, Sabretooth was recently released into the custody of Magneto himself for reasons unknown.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Sabretooth is a mutant who possesses a Wolverine-like healing factor. It is not as advanced as Wolverine's, but it is quite effective. Sabretooth's senses of sight, smell, and taste are highly heightened which makes him an outstanding tracker. Sabretooth also has razorlike claws and fangs, and superhuman strength.

Piotr Rasputin Art by Olivier Coipel

Sabretooth Art by Trevor Hairsine

REAL NAME: Scott Summers
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Pilot
PLACE OF BIRTH: Anchorage, Alaska
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A
KNOWN RELATIVES: Emma Frost-Summers (wife), Christopher (father), Katherine Anne (mother), Alexander (brother), Philip (grandfather), Deborah (grandmother), Frost family (in-laws)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Mutair Airlines
EDUCATION: College Level
HEIGHT: 6'3" WEIGHT: 195 lbs.
EYES: Brown, glowing red when using powers HAIR: Brown

Scott Summers

HISTORY: Scott Summers was the first of two sons born to Major Christopher Summers, a test pilot for the U.S. Air Force, and his wife Katherine. He spent his youth shuffling from air base to air base, following his father from assignment to assignment.

In his late teens, Scott decided that he would become a civilian pilot. He worked for his grandfather as pilot for their private family airline in Alaska. It was on one of these flights that he met his future wife, Emma Frost, who was on a family trip to a private hunting cottage in the Alaskan wilderness.

The two fell in love, married a few years later and moved to Hartford, Connecticut. Even though Scott is a mutant, he prefers to keep his abilities to himself. He is happily married to Emma and is content living the life of a commercial pilot.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Scott Summers possesses the mutant ability to project a beam of heatless, ruby-colored concussive force from his eyes.

REAL NAME: Emma Frost-Summers
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Counselor for troubled teens
PLACE OF BIRTH: Boston, Massachusetts
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A
KNOWN RELATIVES: Scott Summers (husband), Winston (father), Hazel (mother), Cordelia (sister), Adrienne (sister, deceased), Christian (brother), Jocasta (cousin), Summers family (in-laws)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Doctorate in Child Psychology
HEIGHT: 5'10" WEIGHT: 144 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: Ash blonde

Emma Frost-Summers

HISTORY: Emma Frost was born into a wealthy old Boston family. The family, due to the good fortune of having three telepathic mutant daughters, was able to ride the wave of goodwill afforded mutants in the early days of Magneto's rise to power. The Frost fortune grew to be immeasurable.

Tired of using her powers for financial and personal gain, Emma decided she wanted to work with children and trained as a child psychologist. Emma is the first person mutant parents turn to to help their children deal with the stress of coping with their mutant powers.

On a family trip to her family's Alaskan hunting estate, Emma met pilot Scott Summers. The two fell in love and eventually married. They moved to Hartford, Connecticut together and have lived happily there ever since.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Emma Frost is a mutant who possesses various telepathic talents. She is able to read minds, project her thoughts into other minds, and project force bolts.

Art by Olivier Coipel

Sapiens

The world has changed. For centuries, the dominant species on the planet was Homo Sapiens, but that is not the case today. Some have evolved. In the mid-twentieth century, humans with amazing powers began to appear in greater numbers. It happened slowly at first, but those with vision could see the writing on the wall. The time of Homo Sapiens was coming to an end, and the time of Homo Superior was dawning.

Following the end of the Mutant-Human War, and the victory of Magneto over the human and Sentinel armies, Sapiens were allowed to go about their lives. Many assumed Magneto would be a vengeful victor, but this was not the case. His vengeance was of a different variety. It was a quiet victory. His species, Homo Superior, would continue on, while the Sapiens would eventually fade away.

Today, normal humans are a minority in the new world order. While they are not a slave race, there is an understanding that this is the end of their time on the planet. Within two to three generations, human beings will be extinct.

Art by Olivier Coipel

Luke Cage

REAL NAME: Carl Lucas
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Secret, unknown to authorities
OCCUPATION: Leader of an underworld crime group and human terrorist organization
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A., wanted for questioning regarding numerous genetic crimes
KNOWN RELATIVES: James Leonard Lucas (father), Esther (mother, deceased), James Jr. (brother)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Luke Cage's underworld organization in Hell's Kitchen, Bloods
EDUCATION: Unfinished high-school education
HEIGHT: 6'6"
WEIGHT: 425 lbs.
EYES: Brown
HAIR: Black

HISTORY: Born and raised in Harlem, Carl Lucas spent his youth in a gang called the Bloods. He was arrested multiple times and sent to prison for a murder he did not commit. He had little chance of parole. During this time, the Mutant-Human War was at its height. With Sentinel armies losing ground against Magneto and his Mutants, the United States government was desperate. In an effort to create their own super-soldiers they began experimenting on inmates at Cage's prison. Luke volunteered for the program and was one of its few success stories. More powerful than his experimenters anticipated, Luke was able to escape. He made his way back to Hell's Kitchen and, in the months following the end of the Mutant-Human War, established himself as a major crime lord.

Recently, Luke and his gang have become the leading crime group in Hell's Kitchen. He gathered other impressive humans and superhumans and was able to destroy the Kingpin's organization, as well as put down the Dragon group.

Realizing it is only a matter of time before mutants move in on his territory, Luke has begun to channel his gang's energy into becoming a human resistance movement. This idea has become even more pressing since Luke was confronted by a young mutant girl named Layla Miller. Layla used her mutant powers to show Luke a world different from this one — one in which Luke is a hero with a girlfriend and child on the way. What consequences this has on Luke and his decision-making process is unknown.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Luke Cage is superhumanly strong, able to lift/press approximately 25 tons and punch through barriers as thick as four-inch steel plate. Besides superhuman strength, his skin is steel-hard and his muscles and bone tissue are super-dense. He can also recover from injury or trauma in one-third the time of an ordinary human.

Art by Olivier Coipel

Human Resistance Movement

Led by Luke Cage, the Human Resistance Movement has only recently made the transition from underworld criminal organization to freedom fighters. This group's original goal was to control Hell's Kitchen, and it has succeeded. Now, realizing humankind is fighting over the crumbs of their crumbling world, Cage has created a new mission for himself and his gang – to strike back against the mutants and reestablish humans in this world. With Sapiens on the edge of extinction, it appears as if this is going to be an impossible task, but Cage and his Resistance Movement seem equal to it. Whether they can truly make a difference in a world with as much mutant firepower as this one is doubtful.

BLACK CAT
REAL NAME: Felicia Hardy
SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Incredible luck powers

CLOAK
REAL NAME: Tyrone Johnson
SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Darkforce control/ teleportation

HAWKEYE
REAL NAME: Clint Barton
ABILITIES: Expert marksman

IRON FIST
REAL NAME: Danny Rand
SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Martial Arts Expert/ Possessor of the Iron Fist

MERCEDES "MISTY" KNIGHT
ABILITITES: Weapons expert

LAYLA MILLER
SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Untapped psychic abilities

SONS OF THE TIGER
REAL NAMES: Bob Diamond
Abe Brown
Lin Sun
Lotus Shincheko
ABILITITES: Martial Arts experts

WHITE TIGER
REAL NAME: Angela Del Toro
SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Mystically enhanced martial arts skills

Art by Olivier Coipel

Doom

REAL NAME: Victor Von Doom
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: King of New Latveria
PLACE OF BIRTH: Latveria
CITIZENSHIP: A camp outside Haasenstadt (now Doomstadt), Latveria
KNOWN RELATIVES: Werner (father, deceased), Cynthia (mother), Kristoff (Torch, son), Valeria (Invincible Woman, wife)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Fearsome Four
EDUCATION: College studies in the sciences (expelled before completion of degree); self-educated to doctorate level and beyond in most sciences
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 225 lbs.; (with Liquid Metal) 300 lbs.
EYES: Brown
HAIR: Brown

HISTORY: With the arrival of mutants into society, Victor Von Doom realized humankind was behind the genetic curve. In order to raise himself above his genes, Victor studied ways to advance himself technologically and mystically. He succeeded in creating a Liquid Metal he could use as a body armor and manipulate into weapons.

Instead of fighting Magneto during the Mutant-Human War, Doom offered to fight by his side. Realizing that mutants were obviously the next step in human evolution, Doom wanted to be on the winning side of the war — and he was. Doom became Magneto's most successful ally. Although neither of them truly trusted each other, each man respected the other's powers and abilities.

After the mutant victory over the humans, Doom took over the nation of New Latveria. He eventually married a woman named Valeria and adopted a child, Kristoff; he transformed them into the superhumans Invincible Woman and the Torch, respectively. They, along with the monstrous It, form the Fearsome Four. The group is used as a strike force by Magneto to keep other superhumans in line. It is a position Doom would prefer not to be in, but with the amount of mutants in the world, and the power Magneto has over them, it would be unwise to lash out in frustration — especially with no concrete plan laid out for victory.

Recently, Doom's frustration at being seen as Magneto's human lapdog has caused him to question his relationship with the House of M. How, and if, he decides to sever that relationship has not been decided.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Doom's metallic form gives him superhuman strength which allows him to press/lift close to 10 tons. He can mentally command the liquid metal of his body to morph into a variety of shapes and weapons.

Art by Scot Eaton

Fearsome Four

The Fearsome Four is Victor Von Doom's superhuman strike force. The team is made up of Doom himself; Valeria, his wife; Kristoff, his son; and the grotesque It. From their castle in New Latveria, Doom and his family control a large section of Europe. They are the most powerful group of super Sapiens on the planet and are considered royalty by human standards.

Used primarily by Victor to keep his country safe and to demonstrate his dominance over his people, the Fearsome Four is also called upon by Magneto as a first strike weapon against other super-humans across the world. Many in the human community question why a man like Von Doom would allow himself to be controlled by Magneto. The reality is that the two of them cannot stand each other, but neither has been able to prevail over the other.

DOOM

REAL NAME: King Victor Von Doom

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Liquid Metal Body

THE INVINCIBLE WOMAN

REAL NAME: Queen Valeria Von Doom

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Force Bubbles & Minor Molecular Control

HISTORY: The mother figure of this motley brood, she has no problem transforming from loving mother around Kristoff to sadistic killer when her family is threatened. She controls the actions of the It during battle with a telekinetic leash. It is unknown how she truly feels about Victor, but it is clear she is completely in love with his power.

THE INHUMAN TORCH

REAL NAME: Prince Kristoff Von Doom

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Flame Control/Flight

HISTORY: As the only son of the world's most powerful human, Kristoff looks at himself as something more than human. He likes to indulge himself with the women of New Latveria and is feared across the land for his vicious temper. He is a spoiled only child and lives his life at the whim of his base instincts. Victor loves his son dearly and is grooming Kristoff to one day succeed him.

THE IT

REAL NAME: Unknown

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Superstrength/Rocky Hide

HISTORY: The monstrous It is Von Doom's personal bodyguard. By all appearances, this monster is as intelligent as a dog and needs to be controlled by the Invincible Woman during battles. Victor treats him roughly one moment and like an old friend the next.

Art by Scot Eaton

Captain Britain

REAL NAME: Brian Braddock
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Ruler of Britain
PLACE OF BIRTH: United Kingdom
CITIZENSHIP: Braddock Manor, England, UK
KNOWN RELATIVES: Sir James Braddock Sr. (father, deceased), Elizabeth (mother, deceased), Meggan (Queen of England, wife), Elizabeth "Betsy" (Psylocke, sister), James "Jamie" Braddock Jr. (brother)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Graduate degree in Physics
HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 180 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Blond

HISTORY: Brian Braddock was a brilliant scholar engaged in graduate work in physics at Thames University, London. One summer, shortly after his parents had been killed in an explosion in their laboratory at Braddock Manor, Brian went to work as a student research assistant at the Darkmoor Research Centre, a facility for secret nuclear research.

Braddock was present when the facility was attacked by the psychotic criminal known as the Reaver. Attempting to escape, Braddock ran his motorcycle off a cliff and lay near death. In a vision, the spirits of the god-wizard Merlin and Roma, the Lady of the Northern Skies, appeared to him and bade him choose one of the mystic objects they placed before him: the Amulet of Right or the Sword of Might. Braddock chose the amulet, and was bombarded with mystical energy. The patron spirits decreed that Braddock would be Britain's champion, and gifted him with a mystic star-scepter to enhance his fighting skills. Thus Braddock became Captain Britain.

Keeping his true identity secret, Captain Britain began a career of battling menaces to his country. As the Mutant-Human War escalated in America, Captain Britain made sure his British shores were free of conflict, but Brian had no ill will towards mutants. Both his sister and brother appeared to have mutant abilities, and he was adamant in preaching acceptance of all species of man. The British government had other ideas, however, and entered the war. Captain Britain refused to take part and continued to protect Britain from outside threats.

When the Human-Mutant War calmed down, Britain was left relatively unscathed by outsiders. As the new ruler of the planet, Magneto, looking for a new ruler of the United Kingdom following his defeat of their armies, contacted Brian and asked him to take control of the United Kingdom. Brian accepted, fearing who Magnus would choose if he did not.

As King, Captain Britain ushered in a new age of peace and acceptance across his country. It was a new Avalon: mutants, humans, superhumans, and even some mystical creatures were accepted there. To take the fairy tale even further, Brian eventually married the elemental mutant named Meggan. She now rules by his side as his queen. The United Kingdom is well into a new golden age, all thanks to its new king, Brian Braddock.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Captain Britain possesses superhuman strength that allows him to lift approximately 90 tons under optimal conditions. He also possesses superhuman stamina, reflexes, and can fly at a maximum speed of just under the speed of sound (770 miles per hour) for prolonged periods of time.

Art by Alan Davis

Hulk

REAL NAME: Dr. Robert Bruce Banner
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Secret
OCCUPATION: Currently unemployed; former nuclear physicist
PLACE OF BIRTH: Dayton, Ohio
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A., with criminal record, previously pardoned
KNOWN RELATIVES: Brian (father, deceased), Rebecca (mother, deceased), Morris Walters (uncle), Elaine Banner Walters (aunt, deceased), Jennifer Walters (cousin), others
GROUP AFFILIATION: Aboriginal tribe in Australia
EDUCATION: Ph.D in nuclear physics
HEIGHT: 5'9" (Banner), 7'6" (Hulk)
WEIGHT: 128 lbs. (Banner), 1,150 lbs. (Hulk)
EYES: Brown (Banner), Green (Hulk)
HAIR: Brown (Banner), Green (Hulk)

HISTORY: Robert Bruce Banner was the son of Dr. Brian Banner, an atomic physicist, and his wife, Rebecca. Brian became convinced that his work in radiation had altered his own genes, resulting in what he saw as a hated mutant offspring. Brian Banner drove himself insane with these fears and murdered Rebecca while trying to kill Bruce. Brian was shot by police before he could harm his son.

Bruce graduated high school and studied nuclear physics in Navapo, New Mexico, at Desert State University. With mutants exploding onto the worldwide scene, and the belief that radiation might be the cause of this epidemic, Bruce was invited to work for the United States Defense Department at the nuclear research facility at Desert Base, New Mexico. Bruce's main goal was to create a way for the United States to manufacture its own super-army. Banner went to work immediately, but met with little success.

With General "Thunderbolt" Ross constantly breathing down his neck for results, Bruce took some shortcuts in his research. These shortcuts ended with disastrous consequences. During the preparation for one of his new Gamma Radiation tests, Bruce was dosed with a lethal amount of Gamma rays. These rays, however, did not kill him. Instead, Bruce was transformed into a huge monster. He rampaged across Desert Base and destroyed it completely.

Believing the attack to be mutant in nature, Ross ignored his superiors' orders and pursued the monster that would become known as the Hulk with the remaining men of Desert Base for close to a month. As the Hulk, Bruce eventually destroyed Ross' army in San Diego, CA. Following the battle, the Hulk fled into the ocean.

Bruce awoke days later in Australia in the care of Aboriginal people who had taken him in. Bruce vaguely remembered his time as the Hulk. At one point, Magneto himself, assuming the Hulk to be a mutant, visited Banner and offered him a chance to join him in his fight against the humans. Banner declined and asked to be left alone. Magneto reluctantly agreed. Banner is happy to remain out of the public eye and fears what would happen if the Hulk was ever released onto the world again.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: The Hulk possesses the capacity for superhuman strength ranging beyond the limits of virtually any other known humanoid being. His strength increases in direct proportion to his anger. The gamma radiation that mutated the Hulk's body fortified his cellular structure and added, from some as yet unknown (presumably extradimensional) source, several hundred pounds of bone, muscle, and other tissue to his body. As Banner, he possesses the normal human strength of a man of his age, height, and slight build who engages in no regular exercise.

Art by Andy Brase

Iron Man

REAL NAME: Anthony Edward "Tony" Stark
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Secret
OCCUPATION: CEO of Stark Industries
PLACE OF BIRTH: Long Island, New York
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.
KNOWN RELATIVES: Howard (father), Maria (mother)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Stark Industries
EDUCATION: Advanced degree in electrical engineering
HEIGHT: 6'1"
WEIGHT: 225 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Black

HISTORY: Born to Howard and Maria Stark, the heads of the powerful business conglomerate Stark Industries, Tony Stark grew to be an imaginative and brilliant inventor. He worked side by side with his father from an early age, and surpassed his father's technical brilliance by the age of 16. After some poor business decisions, Tony's father retired from the business and left Tony in charge to do as he saw fit.

With Tony's brilliant tech ideas becoming the principal product of Stark Industries, the business boomed. Stark became the key supplier of hi-tech weaponry used to fight mutants across the planet. While the tech was not always successful, Stark was on the cutting edge of science. Stark was on the verge of a technological breakthrough when the Mutant-Human War came to an end. Stark had designed an armor suit that could possibly counter the strongest mutants on the planet. In the years since, those suits have been powered down to become part of a game called Sapien Death Match — a television sport with giant robots fighting each other. Tony and his father are avid competitors and are two of the best in the sport.

Recently, Stark Industries scored its biggest victory when it secured the Sentinel production contracts, pushing his major competitor, Jason Wyngarde, out of business. This contract was the largest in the world and will ensure the existence of Stark Industries for years to come. Magnus and Sebastian Shaw awarded Tony the contract under the condition that he hire Dr. Henry McCoy and Forge as observers. Tony agreed, and McCoy has been a key contributor along with Dr. Pym on The Vision Project.

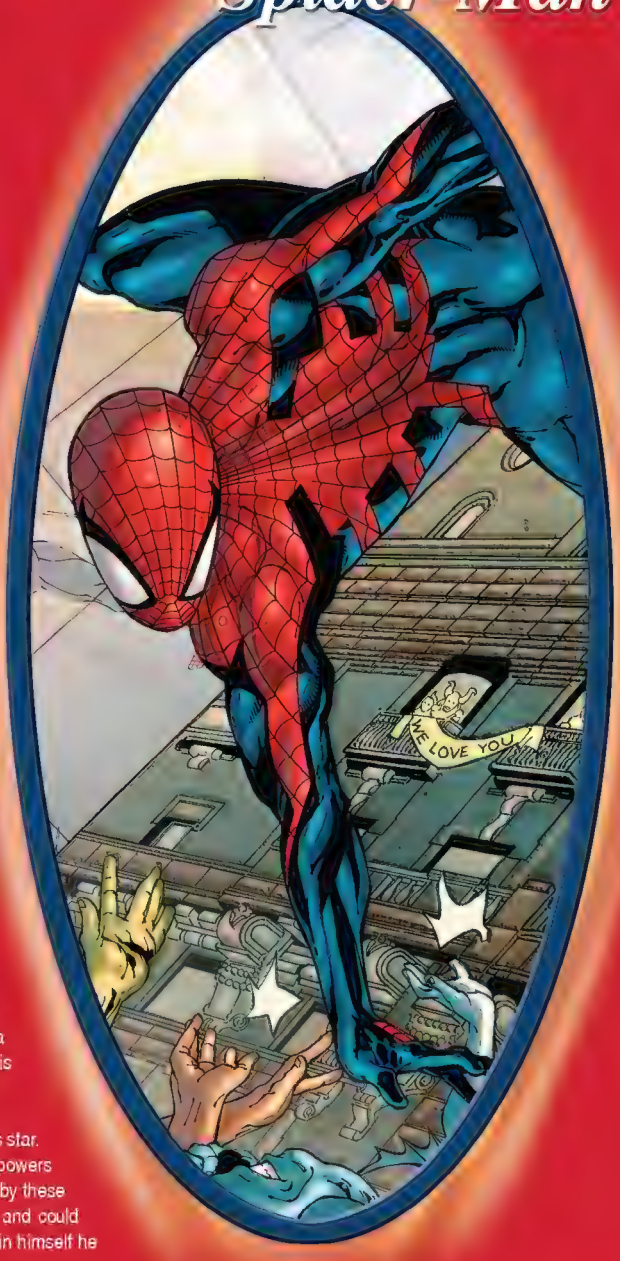
Tony has been secretly working on a special project beneath Stark Industries — a brand new suit of hi-tech armor he plans to use as his new Sapien Death Match suit.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: The Sapien Death Match armor provides superhuman strength and physical protection for Tony Stark, jetboots that allow him to fly, and a variety of weapons including repulsor rays, pulse beams, missile launchers, lasers, tasers, and flamethrowers. The unibeam in the center of his chest can emit various types of light energy, and the helmet contains communication devices (including FM radio), scanning equipment, and recording devices.

Art by Pat Lee

Spider-Man

REAL NAME: Peter Benjamin Parker
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: World famous celebrity, the general public believes Peter Parker is a mutant
OCCUPATION: Actor, professional wrestler, owner of Spider-Man, Inc.
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, New York
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.
KNOWN RELATIVES: Richard (father, deceased), Mary (mother, deceased), Benjamin (uncle), May (aunt), Gwen (wife), Richard (son), George Stacy (father-in-law)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Spider-Man, Inc.
EDUCATION: Ph.D in biochemistry
HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 165 lbs.
EYES: Hazel
HAIR: Brown



HISTORY: Peter Parker was orphaned at the age of six and left in the care of his elderly uncle and aunt, Ben and May Parker. Peter was academically gifted, displaying an uncanny affinity for science that was nothing short of genius. As a student at Midtown High School, Peter attended a public evening exhibition where a spider, accidentally irradiated by a particle beam, fell onto Peter's hand and bit him. Peter left the exhibition in a daze and walked into the path of an oncoming car. Without thinking, Peter jumped onto the side of a wall to which he stuck with his bare hands. Stunned, he realized he had acquired superhuman powers similar to those of a spider: enhanced strength and agility, and the ability to cling to almost any surface.

To test his new powers, Peter donned a mask and took part in an all-comers wrestling match against Crusher Hogan, winning with ease. Spotted by a talent scout who promised to arrange a TV appearance, Peter hurried home and created a more elaborate costume. Thus Spider-Man was born. With his new powers and sudden fame, Peter promised himself he would take care of Uncle Ben and Aunt May. Following his first appearance on television Peter ended up making the decision that would change his life. Peter tackled a burglar escaping past him, saving the owner of the wrestling arena thousands of dollars. The wrestling arena owner thanked Peter by promising Spider-Man a prominent role in his brand new wrestling league.

The wrestling league was a huge success and Spider-Man became its star. As the money rolled in, he decided to reveal to his aunt and uncle the powers he had acquired from the spider bite. Initially, his aunt was frightened by these powers, but Uncle Ben was ecstatic. He was happy for his nephew and could see these amazing powers gave Peter a self-confidence and a belief in himself he did not have before.

At this time the Mutant-Human War went into full swing. Peter, as the mysterious Spider-Man, was accused of being a mutant by the local press. Peter wanted to deny it, but Uncle Ben advised him to stay quiet. Ben could see that Peter was the idol of mutants everywhere. Finally, one of them was not afraid to be seen in public. Ben believed if Peter could give hope to those children who were born different than normal humans, then he should. Uncle Ben's wisdom paid off in the end when the Mutant-Human War ended with mutants victorious. The most public and popular of mutants, Peter revealed his true identity and became an international superstar as a wrestler and an actor. He even starred in a movie with Mary Jane Watson, a controversial move since normal humans rarely scored major lead actor roles. The movie ended up launching Mary Jane's career and established Peter as a "can't miss" star.

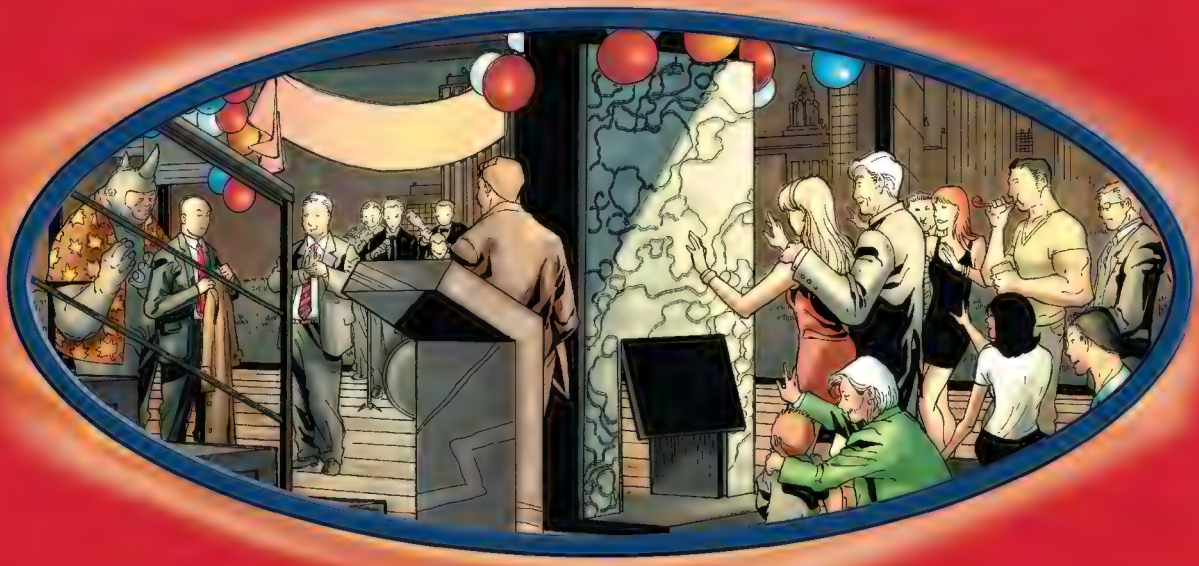
Shortly thereafter, Peter took a break from public life. He married his college sweetheart, Gwen Stacy, and the two of them attended college

Art by Salvador Larroca

together, earning doctorates. Peter returned to public life and he and his Uncle Ben set up Spider-Man, Inc., spreading out into many areas including science and charity work.

Today, surrounded by his family, including his young son Richard, and close friends, Peter Parker is the envy of the world and its most popular mutant; but lately, Peter has felt like something is wrong in his world. And he has begun to worry about his secret. What would happen if the world discovered he was not truly a mutant?

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Spider-Man possesses superhuman strength, reflexes, and equilibrium; the ability to cause parts of his body to stick with great tenacity to most surfaces; and a subconscious premonitional "danger" sense.



Art by Salvador Larroca

REAL NAME: T'Challa
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Monarch of Wakanda
PLACE OF BIRTH: Wakanda
CITIZENSHIP: Wakanda

KNOWN RELATIVES: T'Chaka (father, deceased), N'Yami (mother, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Ph.D in physics
HEIGHT: 6' WEIGHT: 200 lbs.
EYES: Brown HAIR: Black

Black Panther

HISTORY: T'Challa is heir to the centuries-old ruling dynasty of the African kingdom Wakanda and ritual leader of its Panther Clan. During the early days of the Mutant-Human War, Wakanda did its best to remain neutral; however, due to Wakanda's congenial relations with the United States, some mutants took it upon themselves to make a statement by attacking the Wakandan Royal Family. During one such attempt, T'Challa was saved by a mutant girl named Ororo. The two fell in love and T'Challa asked for her hand in marriage, but she declined.

In time, the Mutant-Human War ended and Magneto was victorious. T'Challa, now king of Wakanda, was taught by his father to think two steps ahead of enemies and three steps ahead of friends. Seeing the world's mutant population as a potential threat to Wakanda, T'Challa invited Magnus to his country. They established a treaty, but it is one neither man truly believes in. T'Challa is currently drumming up support for a possible coup attempt with other world leaders against Magneto. He knows it is not a matter of if, but rather when Magneto attacks him and his beloved country, Wakanda.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: T'Challa's senses and physical attributes have been enhanced to near-superhuman levels by the heart-shaped herb.

REAL NAME: Steve Rogers
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Retired
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, New York
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

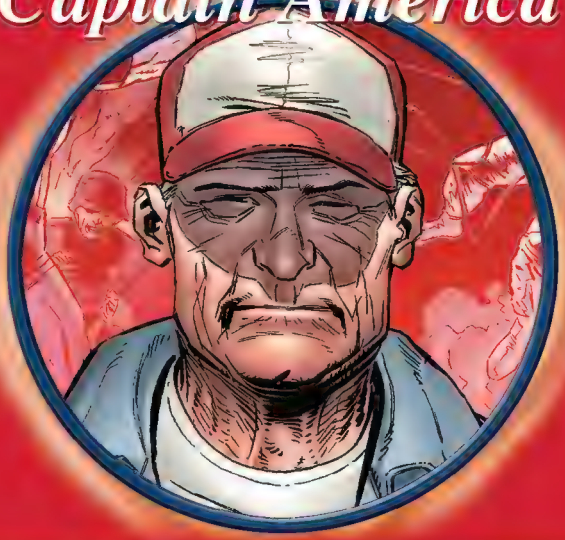
KNOWN RELATIVES: Joseph (father, deceased), Sarah (mother, deceased), Peggy (ex-wife)
GROUP AFFILIATION: The Invaders
EDUCATION: High School
HEIGHT: 6'1" WEIGHT: 180 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: White

Captain America

HISTORY: Steve Rogers has seen many things in his 89 years. He was the first and most successful recipient of the Super-Soldier Serum and fought alongside the Invaders during World War II, personally capturing Adolf Hitler and ending the war in Germany. Following the end of the war, Steve joined NASA, and was the first man to set foot on the moon in 1955.

As time has passed, Steve has withdrawn from the public eye, even though most people remember him and know who he is. Many mutants believe he was never truly given a serum and that he was in fact, one of the first mutants. With most of his friends and family dead and gone, Steve spends his time quietly, alone in his apartment in Brooklyn. For him, there will be no more wars. He has officially retired.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Steve Rogers is 89 years old and the effects of the Super-Soldier serum have begun to fade, although they have kept him more fit than an average 89-year-old. He now possesses the normal strength of a man half his age who engages in intensive regular exercise. During his prime as Captain America, he possessed phenomenal agility, speed, strength, and endurance. He was also a master of many different forms of combat and possessed a virtually indestructible alloy shield.



Black Panther Art by Kaare Andrews

Captain America Art by Lee Weeks

SAPIENS

REAL NAME: Carol Danvers
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly Known
OCCUPATION: Super hero
PLACE OF BIRTH: Boston, Massachusetts
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: Joseph (father), Marie (mother), Steve (brother, deceased), Joseph Jr. (brother)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly S.H.I.E.L.D.
EDUCATION: B.A., extensive training in espionage
HEIGHT: 5'11" WEIGHT: 124 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: Blonde

Captain Marvel

HISTORY: Carol Danvers was a top S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent for years, hiding her superhuman powers from the world. During the Mutant-Human War, Carol fought alongside her S.H.I.E.L.D. comrades but did not reveal her powers for fear of their reaction to her. This prejudice led her to become a spy for Magneto during the darkest days of the war. Following Magneto's victory, Carol was granted an "honorary" status as a mutant hero. Magneto even named her Captain Marvel — the champion of Mutants and humans around the world.

Currently, Captain Marvel is perceived as the most popular super hero in the world despite her lack of mutant genes. Some perceive this as a world rooting for the underdog while others in the mutant community view it as a warning sign. The human race may see Carol's abilities as a sign of hope for themselves, a chance to become something more. Regardless, Carol is reveling in her status as the world's greatest hero — mutant or not.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Carol Danvers possesses superhuman strength, enabling her to lift/press 50 tons under optimal conditions. In addition, Captain Marvel has superhuman durability, the ability to fly, and can absorb and channel energy.

REAL NAME: Tyrone Johnson
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Secret
OCCUPATION: Criminal
PLACE OF BIRTH: South Boston, MA
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A., wanted for questioning in regards to numerous genetic crimes

KNOWN RELATIVES: Unnamed parents, Otis (brother), Anna (twin sister)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Luke Cage's underworld organization in Hell's Kitchen
EDUCATION: Unfinished high-school education
HEIGHT: 5'9" WEIGHT: 155 lbs.
EYES: Brown HAIR: Black

Cloak

HISTORY: When Tyrone Johnson was 17, he ran away to New York City. When he arrived, Tyrone was offered a place to stay by a man named Marshall. Tyrone accepted. Marshall, an agent of a criminal organization called the Maggia, used Tyrone as a guinea pig for his new synthetic "mutant" drug which supposedly supplied the user with superhuman powers. The drug usually delivered mixed results, mostly ending in the subject's death.

Luke Cage, who was on his way to becoming underworld overlord in Hell's Kitchen, led an assault on the complex in search of Maggia agents. During the battle, Tyrone's body exploded with Darkforce energy, inadvertently saving Luke Cage's life. Tyrone collapsed to the floor, but it was obvious the drug was a success. Luke took the sick boy under his wing and was pleasantly surprised by Tyrone's new teleportation powers, talents that would prove quite helpful in Cage's rise to overlord. Luke eventually became a father figure to the boy who would become Cloak.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Cloak's body is a portal to the "Darkforce Dimension," a world of strange ebony energy. He can teleport himself and others by entering the Darkforce dimension and also uses the Darkforce itself as a weapon of darkness.

Captain Marvel Art by Terry Dodson Cloak Art by Olivier Coipel

REAL NAME: Nicholas Joseph Fury
KNOWN ALIASES: Various used while undercover
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Former S.H.I.E.L.D. director; current leader of Human Resistance
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, New York
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A., wanted for questioning regarding genetic crimes
KNOWN RELATIVES: Jack (father, deceased), Katherine (mother, presumed deceased), Jacob (Scorpio, brother), Dawn (sister), Mikel (Scorpio, son)
GROUP AFFILIATION: S.H.I.E.L.D. (pre-mutant incarnation), Human Resistance
EDUCATION: High school, possibly unfinished; extensive military and intelligence training
HEIGHT: 6'1" WEIGHT: 221 lbs.
EYES: Brown HAIR: Brown, white at temples

Nick Fury

HISTORY: Nick Fury was a soldier during World War II. During his time in combat, he was gravely injured. Treated by French doctor Professor Berthold Sternberg, Fury was not only treated for his injuries but also was injected with the "Infinity Formula," a formula intended to slow human aging. It was a success.

Fury returned to America a war hero. He was invited to join S.H.I.E.L.D. and eventually ascended to the position of Director. During his tenure as Director, Magneto rose to power and the Mutant-Human War began. Fury, forced to defend humankind against Magneto and his mutant army, failed. Wanted for crimes against mutantkind, Fury went into hiding. After years of training, Fury was able to easily avoid the genetically superior mutants chasing him.

Recently, there have been rumors of Fury's return as the leader of the Human Resistance. This makes many leaders in the mutant community extremely nervous.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Nick Fury ages very slowly, retaining the appearance and vitality of a man less than half his age. He possesses the normal strength of a man of his physical age, height and build who engages in intensive regular exercise.

ABILITIES: Nick Fury is a superb athlete, hand-to-hand combatant, marksman, and tactician.

REAL NAME: Clinton Francis Barton
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Secret
OCCUPATION: Criminal
PLACE OF BIRTH: Waverly, Iowa
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A., wanted for questioning in numerous genetic crimes
KNOWN RELATIVES: Harold (father, deceased), Edith (mother, deceased), Bernard "Barney" (brother, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Luke Cage's underworld organization in Hell's Kitchen
EDUCATION: High school dropout
HEIGHT: 6'3" WEIGHT: 230 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: Blond

Hawkeye

HISTORY: Clint Barton and his brother Bernard ran away from home at a young age and joined a circus. While there, Clint trained with a bow and arrow under the tutelage of Trickshot, the carnival marksman. During this time, Bernard left Clint behind and ended up becoming an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. Taking the stage name Hawkeye, Clint stayed with the carnival until it shut down during the initial stages of the Mutant-Human Wars.

With no place else to turn, Clint searched for his brother. When he discovered Bernard had been killed during a mutant battle, Clint became enraged. He decided to stand up to his mutant oppressors. His travels took him to New York City, where he was recruited by Luke Cage as a part of his underworld organization.

Recently, Clint has been experiencing unexplained blackouts. Their cause is unknown.

PERSONAL WEAPONRY: Hawkeye is a master archer, and is trained in the use of regular bows, longbows, compound bows, and crossbows. He has designed a variety of "trick arrows" including sonic, explosive-tip, smoke-bomb, flare, tear-gas, acid, suction-tip, cable, putty, bola, electro, net, rocket and boomerang.

Nick Fury Art by Javier Saltares

Hawkeye Art by Mike Mayhew

SAPIENS

REAL NAME: Otto Octavius
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Atomic research consultant
PLACE OF BIRTH: Schenectady, New York
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: Torbert (father, deceased), Mary (mother, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: President's Council on Nu-Bioethics
EDUCATION: Doctorates in nuclear physics, honorary doctorate in biochemistry
HEIGHT: 5'9" WEIGHT: 245 lbs
EYES: Brown HAIR: Brown

Otto Octavius

HISTORY: The son of an overbearing mother and a bullying father, Otto Octavius grew up to become a reclusive but brilliant atomic researcher. It was this area of expertise that first brought him to the attention of the United States government. He was originally brought in to help find a cure for the mutant threat because many believed mutations were caused by radiation and not actual evolution.

Otto could find no basis for this theory, but during his many experiments, he discovered mutants were immune to many diseases and illnesses that struck down humans. He began to research the possibility that humans could greatly benefit from mutant stem cells. Since there is currently a ban on research conducted on real mutant embryos for fear that humans might discover a way to reverse the mutant process, Otto has made it his life's work to create a synthetic equivalent to the mutant gene in order to further his research.

REAL NAME: Henry J. Pym
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Scientist/biochemist
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.
PLACE OF BIRTH: Elmsford, New York

KNOWN RELATIVES: Maria (wife, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Stark Industries
EDUCATION: Ph.D. in Biochemistry
HEIGHT: 6' WEIGHT: 185 lbs
EYES: Blue HAIR: Blond

Henry Pym

HISTORY: Henry Pym's wife, Maria, was killed during the early days of the Mutant-Human War when a Sentinel slammed into the plane meant to take her home to Hungary for a visit. Pym mourned in solitude for months until he was contacted by Tony Stark, an old colleague and the owner of Stark Industries. With no place else to turn, Pym accepted his job offer.

Pym is currently working on the Vision Project for Stark under the watchful eye of mutant researcher, Dr. Hank McCoy. Lately, Pym has become more and more obsessed with the mutant gene and how it differs from that of normal humans. He has even begun to conduct experiments in secret in an attempt to isolate the mutant gene. These experiments are considered illegal because of the danger their discoveries may pose to all of mutantkind. With the ability to find the cause of mutation, many believe there may be a way to reverse its effects. Pym's mood swings and eagerness to discuss illegal experiments have caused others to be concerned, including Stark, McCoy and even Otto Octavius, a representative of the U.S. government.

Otto Octavius Art by Mike Mayhew

Henry Pym Art by Olivier Coipel

REAL NAME: Robert Reynolds
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Unemployed
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unknown

KNOWN RELATIVES: Lindy (wife), unnamed son
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: College
HEIGHT: 6' WEIGHT: 194 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: Blond

Robert Reynolds

HISTORY: Robert Reynolds' life wasn't perfect, but he was content; however, as Mutants rose to power, things changed. Now Robert believes he is going insane. He remembers being able to fly and having amazing superpowers, but this is clearly a symptom of the "Dead-End Syndrome" that is currently making its way around humankind — a feeling of inadequacy following the rise of Magneto and mutantkind across the world. Unable to hold onto his job, he has also developed agoraphobia — the fear of the outside world.

Recently, at the insistence of his wife, Robert has been visiting renowned psychologist, Dr. Stephen Strange. The two have been discussing his psychosis, but have not been able to make any significant breakthroughs. Currently, Robert believes blackness is following him wherever he goes. Whether or not Dr. Strange can cure him of this belief remains to be seen.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Robert Reynolds believes he possessed superhuman powers. These powers included flight and superhuman strength, durability, and intelligence.

REAL NAME: Marc Spector
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Secret
OCCUPATION: Criminal, former U.S. Marine, C.I.A. operative, and heavyweight boxer
PLACE OF BIRTH: Chicago, Illinois
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A., wanted for questioning in regards to numerous genetic crimes

KNOWN RELATIVES: Elias (father, deceased), Mrs. Spector (mother, deceased), Randall (brother, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Luke Cage's underworld organization in Hell's Kitchen, formerly U.S. Marines, C.I.A.
EDUCATION: High-school graduate
HEIGHT: 6'2" WEIGHT: 225 lbs.
EYES: Dark brown HAIR: Brown

Marc Spector

HISTORY: Marc Spector was a successful heavyweight boxer when the Mutant-Human War broke out and all sporting events were cancelled indefinitely. With no direction, Marc joined the Marines. He was subsequently invited to join a small C.I.A. Black Ops unit created to disrupt mutant operations. During a mission to hinder Apocalypse's forces in Egypt, Marc was injured and left for dead in an abandoned temple. When he awoke, he found he had strange new powers.

Eventually, Marc made his way back to the United States and decided to return to boxing full-time. Unfortunately, the only place human fights were taking place was in secret in Hell's Kitchen. During his first fight it was obvious he was a superhuman, and Spector beat his opponent severely. Spector fled, afraid for his life, but was tracked down by Luke Cage, who invited him to join his underworld organization. Spector has been by Cage's side ever since.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Mark Spector gains enhanced strength during the night, and sometimes has prophetic visions.

Art by Olivier Coipel

SAPIENS

REAL NAME: Stephen Vincent Strange
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Psychologist
PLACE OF BIRTH: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: Eugene (father, deceased), Beverly (mother, deceased), Donna (sister, deceased), Victor (brother, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Medical doctorate; Ph.D in Psychology
HEIGHT: 6'2 1/2" WEIGHT: 180 lbs.
EYES: Gray HAIR: Black, white at temples

Stephen Strange

HISTORY: Dr. Stephen Strange is the most successful psychologist in New York City. He is an expert in most psychological disorders, but has dealt almost exclusively in a new human distress condition commonly known as "Dead-End Syndrome." The syndrome became prominent following the rise of mutantkind. It was an extremely profitable field, and one he excelled at. He seemed to be able to relate completely to those who are overwhelmed by their "average" human standing in this new world order.

Recently he has trimmed back his patient load, feeling a little stressed by the enormous number of patients with similar problems. Currently, he is treating Robert Reynolds, a man who claims he is being followed by blackness and believes he may have had superpowers at one time. While this is not that different from some of Strange's other patients, he feels differently about Robert Reynolds, as if Reynolds' psychosis may be a sign of something bigger.

REAL NAME: Janet Van Dyne
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Fashion designer
PLACE OF BIRTH: Cresskill, New Jersey
CITIZENSHIP: Citizen of the United States of America with no criminal record

KNOWN RELATIVES: Vernon (father, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Degree in Fashion
HEIGHT: 5'4" WEIGHT: 110 lbs.
EYES: Blue HAIR: Auburn

Janet Van Dyne

HISTORY: Janet Van Dyne was the daughter of a renowned scientist, Dr. Vernon Van Dyne, who was working on a way to detect signals of intelligent life on other planets using gamma radiation. Completely obsessed, Van Dyne unknowingly neglected his daughter. Bored and lonely in her father's huge lab, Janet spent her time fantasizing about living a different life — one with glamorous parties and friends that she didn't really have. She began to design clothing for the imaginary parties, drawings her father found lying around the lab. Without her knowledge, he sent the designs off to a friend who happened to have contacts in the Paris fashion scene. Impressed with her design sense, he invited Janet to enroll in a top fashion institute in Paris, France.

Today, Janet is one of the world's top fashion designers and owns a fashion design firm in Paris. She is most famous for designing Captain Marvel's uniform and is the first person most respectable mutants turn to for their hero uniform or party wear.

Art by Olivier Coipel

REAL NAME: Mary Jane Watson
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Actress
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

KNOWN RELATIVES: Anna May Watson (aunt), Philip (father), Madeline (mother, deceased), Gayle Watson-Byrnes (sister)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: College Degree
HEIGHT: 5'8" WEIGHT: 120 lbs.
EYES: Green HAIR: Red

Mary Jane Watson

HISTORY: Born into an abusive family in the Bronx, Mary Jane Watson always wanted to escape her life. She longed to be an actress. But as the world changed around her and mutants became the stars of stage and screen, it looked as if Mary Jane would be left behind, forced to perform in Off Broadway human sideshows.

That all changed when former college friend, and world famous performer, Peter Parker asked her to play his love interest in his newest movie. The role made her America's sweetheart. Now, with the release of *Funny Valentine*, Mary Jane is one of the only human movie stars in the business able to launch her own solo vehicles.

But, will mutant and human backlash for a true human movie star be too much for her to be able to succeed? She has made it this far — much farther than most of her mutant peers would have considered possible a few short years ago.

REAL NAME: Simon Williams
KNOWN ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Actor
PLACE OF BIRTH: Paterson, New Jersey
CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.
KNOWN RELATIVES: Sanford (father, deceased), Martha (mother), Eric (brother)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Actors Guild
EDUCATION: Advanced degree in Electrical Engineering
HEIGHT: 6'2" WEIGHT: 380 lbs.
EYES: Red (permeated with shifting spots of ionic energy, no visible irises)
HAIR: Gray

Wonder Man

HISTORY: Simon Williams claims he gained his powers during an industrial accident, but not even he truly remembers how he became Wonder Man. Although he is not an official mutant, he has been embraced by the mutant community as one of their own. He is currently working on his television series, *Me and Mine*.

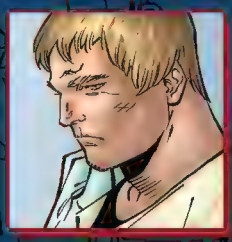
While his exploits as a superhuman have been less than impressive, Simon is known more for his romantic exploits. It has been rumored that he even dated Magneto's human daughter, Wanda. Simon has consistently denied this and claims he was just in Genosha on a charity visit. Currently he is dating the world's most famous superhuman, Captain Marvel. As usual, Williams is remaining coy about this relationship. Regardless, Simon is one of the tabloids' favorite television stars.

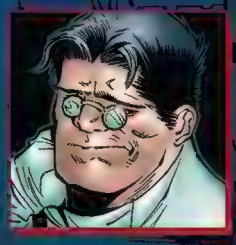
SUPERHUMAN POWERS: Wonder Man possesses greatly enhanced physical strength, durability, and stamina. When utilizing his powers, his physical form becomes charged with ionic energy.

Art by Olivier Coipel

Mutant Week

with Trish Tilby





Three of our planet's greatest minds discuss

mutant genius, "Dead-End Syndrome," and what scares them the most about the direction of our society today…

Three geniuses. One mutant. Two humans. All working together to improve our ever changing society.

Although only one of them is truly a mutant, it has been suggested recently that "Genius" could be considered a mutant ability. Is expanded brainpower something only mutants possess? Is there a way for average human beings to be more than ordinary? We will get their opinions on these and other questions today.

TRISH TILBY: First off, welcome; it's an honor to have you all here in Chicago at Stark Industries. To have three of the greatest minds of this generation in one room is amazing and we thank you for your time. Let's start off with the obvious one. Is "genius" a mutant gift?

DR. HENRY MCCOY: First off, it's great to see you again, Trish. Secondly, intelligence can be a mutant trait, but it is not the sign of mutation. My esteemed colleagues here are most certainly human, like yourself, but nowhere near as beautiful. It is a shame your television career was cut short.

TILBY: Yes. Well, times have changed, haven't they?

MCCOY: They have. They have. But a beautiful woman is still a beautiful woman regardless of genes... or as some would say, because of them. Your readers are certainly missing out by not seeing you in person. Your picture at the top of the page does not do you justice.

TILBY: Are you flirting with me, Doctor?

MCCOY: (*Laughing*) If that's one of your questions, I'll answer it—but otherwise I will have to decline comment.

But seriously, the capacity for expanded thought is not limited to those with the mutant gene. Surely, men like Einstein were intelligent well before mutants appeared. Although, in his case, who knows...

I will say that the men next to me are two of the smartest human beings left on the planet. Men like Tony Stark... our missing colleague Bruce Banner... and even, as unpopular as it is to admit, Victor Von Doom... these men are a credit to their race. Can they stand up to a mutant with extreme mental capabilities? Probably not. But through their struggle to find answers to questions that some mutants don't even consider is where they bring the most to our society. Humankind may be on the verge of extinction but these are not dinosaurs. They will leave their mark on society as a whole.

TILBY: Interesting... Dr. Pym? Your thoughts?

DR. HENRY PYM: While my answer won't be as entertaining as my department head's, I would have to say I agree with him. The capacity for expanded human brain function has been exhibited for centuries. Man has long been able to think for himself. He didn't need mutants to do that for him.

As far as extinction is concerned, an animal backed into a corner is often the most dangerous of all.

TILBY: What do you mean by that, Dr. Pym?

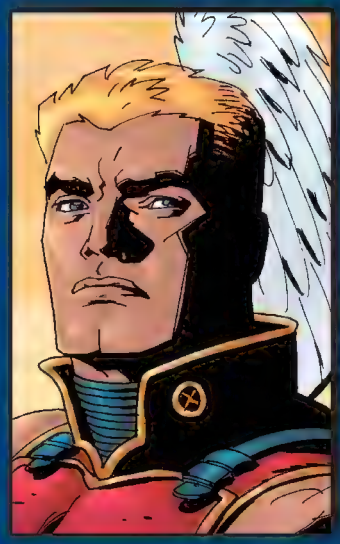
PYM: Just that a species does not disappear overnight. Even Magneto himself is said to have a human offspring. Nature has a way of correcting itself either through natural means or—

MCCOY: Dr. Pym is always overstating things. He spends more time in Stark's doghouse than in the actual lab. What say you, Otto?

Not that I want to take over your interview, Ms. Tilby...

DR. OTTO OCTAVIUS: I don't want to take anything away from your genius and mutanity, Dr. McCoy, but as usual you are as subtle as a brick. Yours and Dr. Pym's attitudes may be the exact reason why you and your employer are continually being monitored by the President and Magnus. It is thinking like that which brings humans in conflict with mutants.

But the question was originally on whether or not genius was a mutation, correct? I say no. The brain is a powerful weapon, Ms. Tilby... one that humankind has long used to its advantage.



(Photo by Sean Phillips)

Recent scandals involving Warren Worthington III have left Worthington Industries out in the cold on many contracts.

(Photo by John Byrne)

Bankruptcy forced Jason Wyngarde out of Sentinel Tech race.

Trish Tilby
Mutant Week Editor-In-Chief

Doctor Henry McCoy
Head of Research and Development for Stark Industries, Ph.D in biochemistry

Doctor Henry Pym
Synthetics and Biological Development for Stark Industries, Ph.D in biochemistry

Doctor Otto Octavius
Representative of the President's Council on Nu-Bioethics, Ph.D. in nuclear physics, honorary Ph.D. in biochemistry

Pym, McCoy Photos by Olivier Coipel Octavius Photo by Mike Mayhew Trish Tilby Photo by Leinel Francis Yu

Only recently have we established that mutants are the next step in evolution on a genetic scale. Perhaps there will come a time when the human brain will evolve, but for right now we are all — mutants and humans alike — dealing with the same brain capacity. It's what portion of the brain we use that makes us geniuses.

And to be blunt, I'm more concerned about my legacy in the scientific world than the legacy of humankind. Things change. Life evolves. But if I can contribute to mutant theories, I am more than willing to be the last rung on the ladder of humanity. Who wouldn't want to be a mutant?

TILBY: True. I've always wondered what it would be like to fly.

Something you said interested me, Dr. Octavius — about Stark Industries and their relationship with the President. Is there a need to monitor the actions of a company like Stark Industries as closely as you obviously are?

OCTAVIUS: I think any country that takes itself seriously is going to monitor its most successful companies. I wouldn't be here in Chicago if not for the need to monitor the advancements of Stark Industries. They provide our country with a great deal of security. With the bankruptcy of Jason Wyngarde's company and the scandal surrounding Worthington, Stark has moved up to become our number one tech supplier. And they have always been the major supplier of the technology used for our Sentinel program. That alone guarantees the involvement of the President, S.H.I.E.L.D., and even Magneto himself. And two of the greatest minds on our planet reside in their labs. It is important to make sure those minds are not wandering, although I question what Dr. Pym is truly doing there.

MCCOY: As always, we appreciate your interest, Otto; and, believe me, our resident human rights advocate is focusing on the job at hand.

OCTAVIUS: I'm sure he is.

TILBY: Before we get too excited let's move on to the next issue...

As you all know, the so-called "Dead-End Syndrome" is a phenomenon rapidly affecting humans across the globe. A feeling of hopelessness... that a normal person cannot possibly compete with mutantkind's amazing gifts. There has come a cry from human diplomats for something to be done. We already have super-powered humans like Captain Marvel flying through the skies. Humankind even had Captain America in World War II, although some claim he, like Namor, was one of our earlier mutants. What I'm asking about is experimenting on humans. Many have suggested using mutant embryos and genetics to enhance humans. To give all people gifts so we're on an even playing field. To help open the possibilities for the "Dead-End" humans have theoretically become.

OCTAVIUS: As you know, Trish, the President and Magnus himself have discouraged this type of talk. I have always believed research on mutant embryos could lead us... no, it would lead us down a dangerous path. The President's Council on Nu-Biothics to which I belong has studied this and we know the temptation to mess with the genetic strain is there. But to actually experiment on real mutant embryos would be a terrible mistake.

Instead our committee proposes a synthetic equivalent. Not to deal with this so-called "Dead-End Syndrome," which is affecting beings to make them feel genetically equal, but to help us heal the truly sick. To use genetics to create homo-superior embryonic stem cells to find cures for diseases and vaccines for illnesses that some mutants are fundamentally immune to. Using this process to "advance humans" is absurd and dangerous.

TILBY: Dr. McCoy? Dr. Pym?

MCCOY: Stark Industries leaves policy to those who are in charge. We are not interested in dealing with mutant embryos or synthetic whatchamacallits. Our experiments concentrate on advancing the Sentinel program and other tech ventures.

TILBY: Dr. Pym?

(Photo by Pat Lee)

Stark Industries is currently the major supplier of technology for the restructured Sentinel program.

(Photo by Olivier Coipel)

Dr. Stephen Strange is the foremost expert on the new phenomenon called "Dead-End Syndrome."

MCCOY: I believe Dr. Pym shares that feeling as well.

TILBY: Really?

MCCOY: Yes. I do.

TILBY: Well, maybe he could address the idea of a "Dead-End Syndrome"? Dr. Pym?

MCCOY: That really isn't what we do at—

PYM: I'll take the question, Hank.

This syndrome is an obvious problem for all of us. Does it exist? I don't really know. I know a colleague of ours, a psychologist in New York City, Dr. Stephen Strange, believes it is out there. To be honest, Trish, I know at times I feel inadequate. That I want more. Who wouldn't, looking at the amazing things mutants can do? But there are downsides. People don't talk about it much, but not all mutations are good.

MCCOY: Dr. Pym... Let's keep this to science fact and not science fiction. Please. Not just for the sake of the readers but for your position at Stark.

PYM: I'm just answering the question, Hank. What if there was a way to isolate the mutant gene? To actually figure out the destiny of a mutant before they were born? Or to fiddle with the human gene in order to match what happens with the mutant gene? This "Dead-End Syndrome"? It's something we all have to deal with. At least three of us here do. The rise of mutantkind could be signaling the end of humankind. Otto seems content to be a footnote but I'm not so eager.

Luckily, it appears as though Magnus has much kinder ends in mind for my species than many of our former government leaders had for our genetically superior friends. Instead of hunting us down he is going to be content to just let us fade away. But that doesn't prevent us from wondering why some people mutate and others don't. Surely people have to see that it's the nature of science to question. What if there's a way to isolate the mutant gene and find out more about it? "What if" is the basic foundation of all great scientific discovery, isn't it?

MCCOY: It's not what we do, Henry. At Stark we build little robots, we don't break down the human body.

Besides, the idea of one mutant gene making the difference is absurd. It's not one strand of DNA, it's millions strung together. It's a combination so complex that it will not be figured out in our lifetime, regardless of the eventual mutant genii appearing around the planet. We've discussed this time and again and still you ask the same questions. It's truly futile.

PYM: The interesting thing to me is that no one seems to consider that they, too, will eventually become obsolete. Humans thought they were the top of the evolutionary ladder, but they were wrong. If history is any indicator, mutants are far from the end of the line.

TILBY: Response, Dr. McCoy?

MCCOY: Trish, my dear, any response I have will only inspire more foolishness from my colleague, I'm afraid. And in an attempt to keep him on the staff at Stark Industries I think we will end the interview here.

TILBY: Of course. No problem. I thank you for coming. Any final thoughts, Dr. Octavius?

OCTAVIUS: None. But I ask you... is it any wonder the President and Magnus asked me to inspect the Stark labs?

—Trish Tilby

(Photo by Aaron Lopresti)

A group of young Mutants trains at the New Mutant Leadership Institute. What will the next step on the genetic ladder deliver?

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The First Mutant Memorial and Museum of Mutant History

Our first mutant hero...

The people of the Hamptons welcome you to the Museum of Mutant History for a beautiful sunrise look at the only monument to history's first mutant hero.

(Photo by Alex Ross)

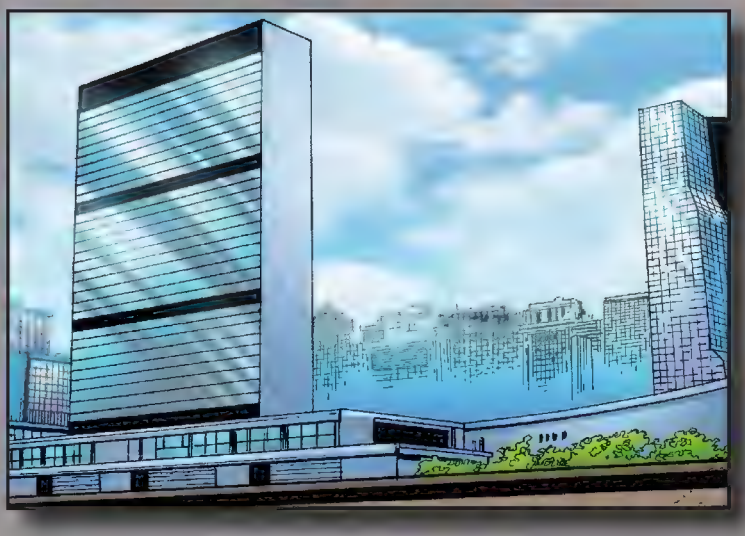
Begin your journey on the coast of Long Island with a sunrise in the Hamptons. Reported to be the site of the first appearance of Namor, the Hamptons claim to be the birthplace of mutants. Whether or not that's true will be debated for years, but the statue of Namor glistening in the sunrise is a sight to behold. Located off the coast of Southampton, this 50-foot-tall statue stands as a testament to the first recorded mutant hero in history —the Mutant King of the Seas, Namor!

You will also have a chance to visit the Museum of Mutant History! Decide for yourself whether or not the first photographic evidence of Namor in the sea is actually a mutant being... or a school of fish as some historians claim. This disputed photograph documents the first recorded appearance of Namor. The Hamptonites claim they have the only photographic proof from pre-World War II of Namor's existence and you'll be able to look at the evidence firsthand. The Museum of Mutant History also holds hundreds of pieces of memorabilia from mutant history including Quicksilver's original battle uniform, Sebastian Shaw's first signed document as the head of S.H.I.E.L.D., a microphone used by Alison Blaire on her TV show *Alison*, and Magneto's helmet from the Battle for Mutant Justice in New York City.

New Mutant Leadership Institute

"Our leaders will be better. They will be trained to make the hard choices. And they will always serve in the best interest of mutantkind." – *Magnus*

Our morning continues in the place where our future is seeded. See the inspirational campus where mutant leaders of tomorrow learn their craft.



(Photo by Aaron Lopresti)

Established less than ten years ago, the New Mutant Leadership Institute was built by Magneto himself to train exceptional mutants in the field of diplomacy. This beautiful site is built on the same ground that once housed the United Nations Headquarters. It is a state-of-the-art facility and an inspiration, especially to those with young children! The Institute will be forever known as the birthplace of our future leaders.

You and your family will have more than enough time to wander the grounds and possibly mingle with the students. Please let us know if your child will be attending the Institute and we will guarantee a meeting with Professor Manh or one of the other fine faculty professors

Magnus Tribute Memorial

"The mutant blood lost here was the last that will ever be lost in war." – *Magnus*

(Photo by Olivier Coipel)

Visit the remnants of the ultimate battle for mutant justice.

Walk on the hallowed ground that is regarded as the turning point in mutant history. You and your family will visit the site of the actual battle. You will see actual footage of the battle and the moment of Magneto's greatest triumph. You will also hear his mutant V-Day speech in all of its glory as a telepath who witnessed the speech takes you back in time and allows you to hear and feel the day as it actually happened. Feel the sunshine on your face... the excitement in the crowd... even smell the smoldering metal of the destroyed Sentinels! It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will leave you feeling prouder to be a mutant than you ever have!

You can also visit the Magnetic Pull concession stand for the most recent memoir of that battle, By His Side, by decorated S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Mortimer Toynbee, also known as The Toad.

We will also serve a picnic lunch in Central Park in the shadow of the monument. Please make sure you check out the lunch options which include sandwiches and barbeque.

Mutopia and The Temple of Mutopia

"Who doesn't want to visit Mutopia?" – *Alison Blaire*

In a short teleportation across town we will take you to the beautiful city of Mutopia, the ideal mutant community. Look out for celebrities like Alison Blaire and pop star Jazz as they travel the streets of Mutopia living their everyday lives. Shop in the most glorious mutant stores on the planet. Live like a star!

The tour will also provide you with a beautiful view of the controversial Temple of Mutopia located on the edge of Human Town.

(Photo by Andy Park)

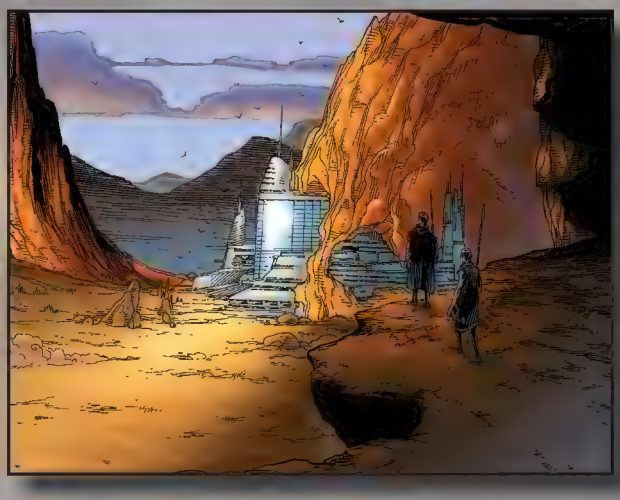
*Warning: This trip takes you close to the Temple of Mutopia which lies on the very edge of Human Town. Because of the Temple's location, we cannot stop you from inspecting the building, but this part of the tour is open only as long as conditions are safe for travel. Those who wish to travel inside the Temple and see the Tree of Transformation will most likely be turned away. We will be spending a total of 2 hours in Mutopia. Remember this is not meant to be a visit for Sapien Transcendence and those who attempt to stay behind will forfeit their Teleportation Deposit. Teleportation Tours cannot be held responsible for anything that happens while near or inside the Temple of Mutopia.

Visit the palace of Queen Ororo on Mt. Kilimanjaro

"The symbolic Queen of Mutantkind... and the savior of a continent." – *Magnus*

We end our tour with a sunset on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro. You will see the beauty that is Africa, as well as the Crystal Cathedral that is the home of the elemental goddess, Queen Ororo of Kenya. You will sip champagne in the shadow of royalty as the sun sets in the beautiful African nation of Kenya. And if you are very lucky you may see the Queen herself as she flies high above her thriving nation on the winds.

At the completion of the sunset you will be teleported directly to your homes wearing your complimentary Teleportation Tours T-Shirt and Hat.



(Photo by Trevor Hairsine)

We thank you for your patronage and hope you join us soon. Please see our website to keep track of your Telepoints which could earn you a free teleportation to anywhere in the world.

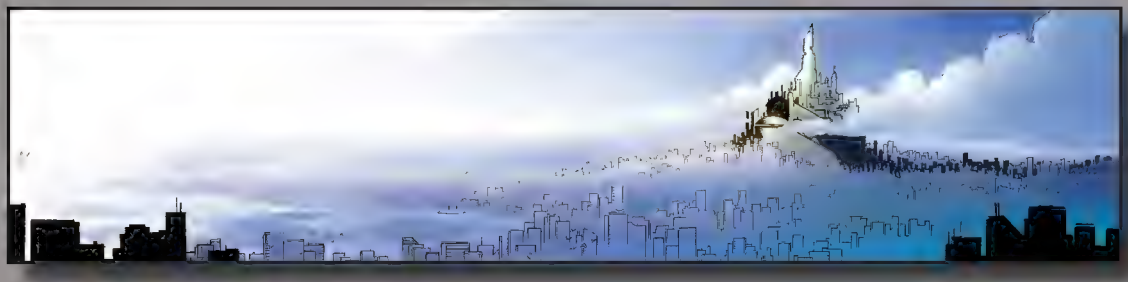
*Warning: Although we have not been officially asked to cease and desist bringing the tour this close to her home, Queen Ororo has from time to time made it known that she would prefer we did not. Travelers will be provided with raincoats on the off chance Queen Ororo is in one of her moods. For those mutants who are allergic to rain it is suggested you skip this part of the tour. Teleportation Tours cannot be held responsible for the weather, created or otherwise, which may affect the patrons.

Coming soon...

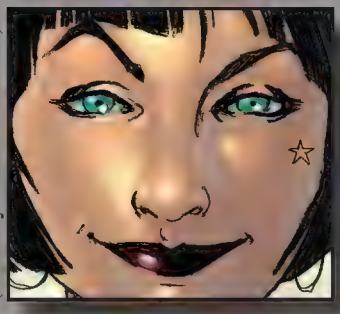
The Royal Genoshan Gardens

It is our hope that we will eventually obtain the exclusive rights to enter the Royal Genoshan Gardens with the permission of Lord Magnus himself. Only those screened by our telepaths will be allowed on this journey into the inner sanctum of our mutant leader's home. Also, you will be afforded a glimpse at the rarely visited monument Magneto built to his own fallen hero.

A waiting list has already begun. With a small donation to the New Mutant Leadership Institute you can add your name to the list as well!



(Photo by Olivier Coipel)



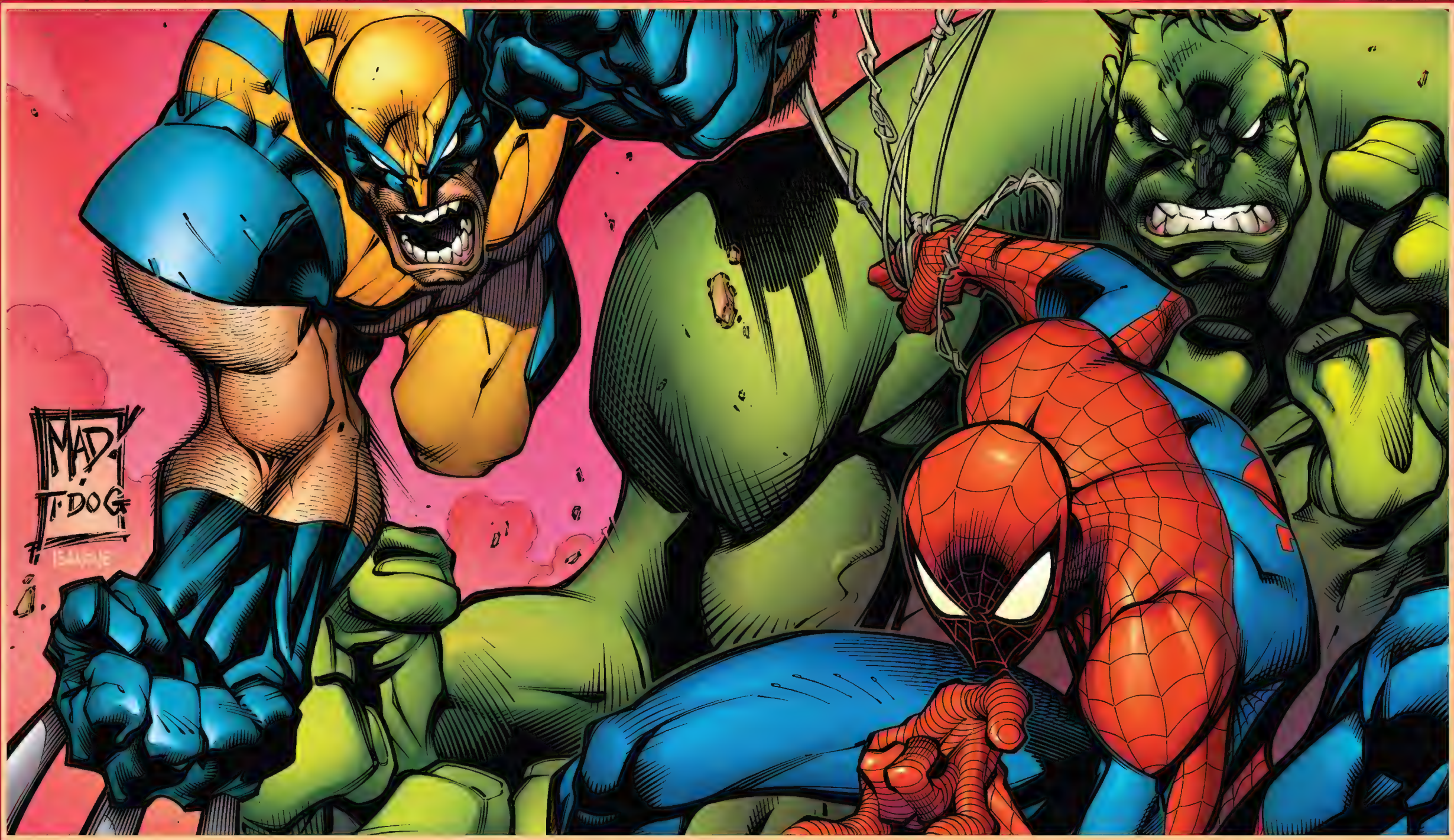
(Photo by Salvador Larroca)

Lila Cheney's Star Tours

Interstellar Teleporter Lila Cheney has offered you this once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the stars. More information as this tour develops. One thing is for sure — it will be out of this world!

HOUSE OF M #1

VARIANT COVER BY OLIVIER COIPEL, TIM TOWNSEND & FRANK D'ARMATA



HOUSE OF M #1

VARIANT COVER BY JOE MADUREIRA, ART THIBERT & RICHARD ISANOVE

HOUSE OF M #1

VARIANT COVER BY JOE QUESADA, DANNY MIKI & FRANK D'ARMATA

HOUSE OF M #2

VARIANT COVER BY TERRY DODSON, RACHEL DODSON & FRANK D'ARMATA

HOUSE OF M #3
VARIANT COVER BY JOHN CASSADAY

HOUSE OF M #4

VARIANT COVER BY BRANDON PETERSON

HOUSE OF M #5

VARIANT COVER BY MIKE McKONE, ANDY LANNING & FRANK D'ARMATA

HOUSE OF M #6

VARIANT COVER BY GREG LAND, MATT RYAN & JUSTIN PONSOR

HOUSE OF M #7

VARIANT COVER BY SALVADOR LARROCA, DANNY MIKI & LIQUID!

HOUSE OF M #8

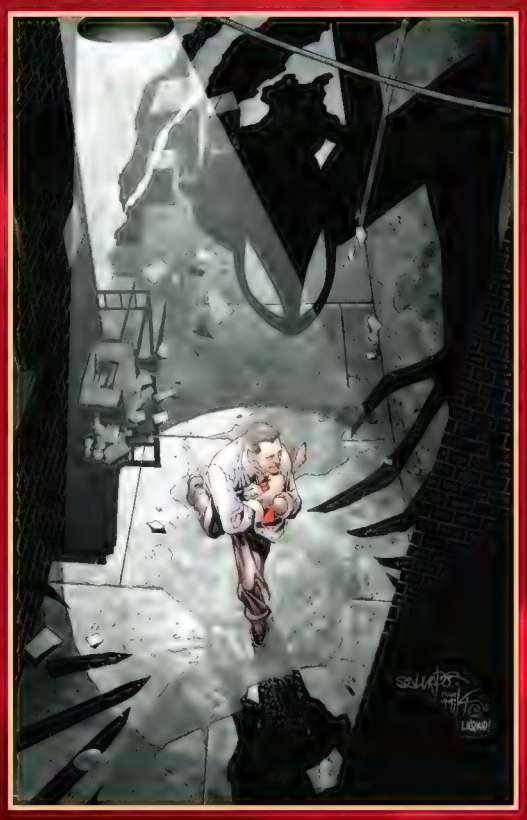
VARIANT COVER BY CHRIS BACHALO & TIM TOWNSEND

SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #1

VARIANT COVER BY SALVADOR LARROCA & PACO ROCA

SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #1

SKETCH VARIANT COVER BY SALVADOR LARROCA



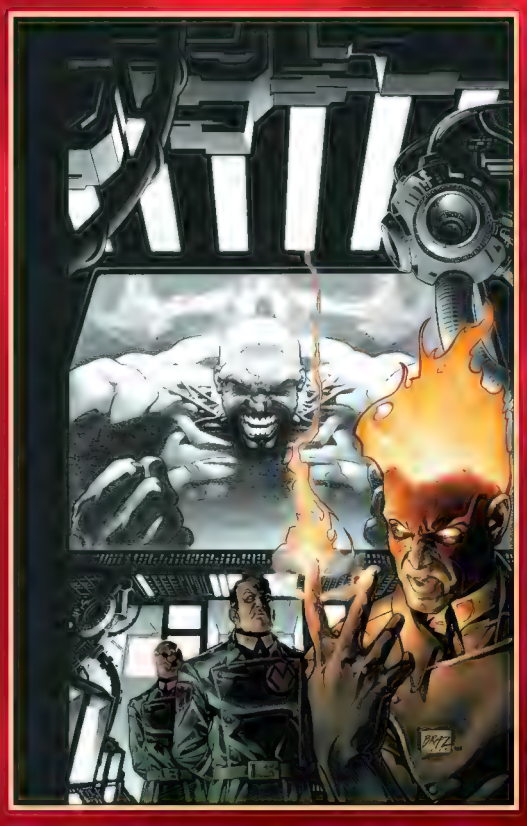
SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #2
VARIANT BY SALVADOR LARROCA,
DANNY MIKI & LIQUID!

FANTASTIC FOUR: HOUSE OF M #1
VARIANT BY SCOT EATON &
RICHARD ISANOVE

IRON MAN: HOUSE OF M #1
VARIANT BY PAT LEE

THE PULSE #10
VARIANT BY MIKE MAYHEW &
AVALON'S ANDY TROY

INCREDIBLE HULK #83
VARIANT BY ANDY BRASE &
FRANK D'ARMATA



INCREDIBLE HULK #84
VARIANT BY ANDY BRASE &
FRANK D'ARMATA

NEW X-MEN #16
VARIANT BY AARON LOPRESTI,
TIM TOWNSEND & PETE PANTAZIS

MUTOPIA X #1
VARIANT BY ANDY PARK

HOUSE OF M #1 DIRECTOR'S CUT

COVER BY ESAD RIBIĆ

HOUSE OF M #1

SCRIPT BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

PAGE 1

A series of tight shots. Tensely designed.
1- Tight on a woman's eyes. Shut tight in sweaty pain.
We will reveal it to be Wanda giving birth to her twin babies with Doctor Strange as her doctor.
An intense and very painful experience. She is giving birth to twins. She is sweaty and in so much pain she's almost unconscious.

WANDA MAXIMOFF
Agh!

2- Tight on her hand gripping the silky bed sheets. Holding on for dear life.

WANDA MAXIMOFF
Nnn...

3- Tight on her mouth screaming- profile. Gasping into the open air for life.

WANDA MAXIMOFF
Aarrggh!

4- Tight on her other hand desperately reaching for a hand to grab. A red one takes it. The Vision's hand coming to support his wife.

5- Tight on the doctor's eyes wide with excitement. Looking down to the miracle of life before him.

DOCTOR STRANGE
Almost there...

6- Tight on the woman throwing her head back in excruciating pain.

WANDA MAXIMOFF
Oh God!!!

7- The woman's p.o.v. Of her own child's birth, the doctor at her cervix.

DOCTOR
Here they come! Here they come!!

8- Tight on her eye. It shoots up wide. As wide as it can go. She has passed the threshold of pain and has entered another place.

PAGE 2

1- Int. Wanda's bedroom- day
Big panel 3/4's of the page. Wide of the room.
Slightly high looking down on this beautiful bedroom with flowing silk drapes blowing in the mid day breeze.
Wanda, center panel, has delivered twins. The painful birth is over and Doctor Strange, in scrubs, has pulled down his mask and is handing her her prize. Her gorgeous baby twins. Wanda is crying tears of joy and holding one baby. She is looking up at the smiling face of her husband.

Standing around the room, beaming in joy are Wonder Man, Quicksilver, Magda, and Magneto. No one in costume except for Vision.

It's a beautiful image. A perfect image. Too perfect. No blood or medical equipment. Everyone is happy and smiling and perfectly lit.

This isn't real. Wanda is making this happen. This is the perfect re-creation of something that she can never have. She has created all of these people and things. In fact, this scene, or a version of it, did happen way back in a Vision/Scarlet Witch series. Consult it for reference but build on it.

DOCTOR STRANGE
Twins!

Wanda, you gave birth to two healthy, happy, beautiful twins!

2- Wanda is holding her babies and smiling past her tears of joy. She is euphoric. Vision has knelt beside her. He is smiling too. The perfect family. The perfect moment.

WANDA MAXIMOFF
Twins!!
Did you hear that, my husband? Twins!

VISION
This is a glorious day.

VOICE OFF PANEL
Now put it back.

PAGE 3

1- Widescreen. From behind the Vision and the Scarlet Witch, everyone turns to see Charles Xavier sitting in the doorway. He is backlit to the orange sun behind him.

His lighting is harsher and more realistic than everyone else's. Xavier is in the real world and not part of her self-made reality. Xavier ready. Not posing, just ready. For a fight? For an attack?

CHARLES XAVIER
Wanda, we talked about this. Put it back.
You have no children.
There's no one in this room but you and I.

2- Wanda, still past tear-soaked eyes, begs, presents her newborn baby as evidence that she is not crazy.

WANDA MAXIMOFF
No, no! See? See! My beautiful babies!

3- Tighter on Xavier, he is firm with a dash of compassion.

CHARLES XAVIER
You cannot have children, Wanda. You never could.
Now stop abusing your mutant powers and put it back.
You're only hurting yourself.

4- Xavier's p.o.v. Of the room. Vision stands up for his wife. Wanda hugs her babies.

THE VISION
Don't speak to my wife like-

WANDA MAXIMOFF
These are my children.

5- Xavier stands firm. With a fatherly command. Now he is using his psychic powers.

CHARLES XAVIER
(psychic font)
Wanda, put the world back now!

6- Wanda holds her baby and barks back through her tears. Her newborn looks at us and snarls as well. Her illusion is already falling apart.

WANDA MAXIMOFF
No!

7- Same as 5, but tighter. Xavier is sweating it but holding firm. Now we see clearly they are having a battle of powers.

CHARLES XAVIER
(psychic font)

Put it back!

8- Same as six but a little wider. Wanda's face drops in horror as she begs one last time.

WANDA MAXIMOFF
But my children!

9- Same as 7, but tighter still.

CHARLES XAVIER
(psychic font)
Never existed!

10- Same as 8, but wider. We see Wanda's world is disappearing, melting and warping, collapsing and twisting.

PAGE 4

1- Int. Wanda's bedroom- day. Big panel 3/4's of the page. Wide of the room. Same angle of the room as page 2, panel one.
But everything is gone. The room is empty.
Just Wanda and Xavier.
Wanda falls to the floor crying hysterically.
This beautiful bedroom is a plain room. No flowing silk drapes blowing in the midday breeze.

No twins. No Vision, no Doctor Strange. No sunshine.
Just Xavier looking down at this desperate, dangerous, hysterical tragic figure on her knees, crying on the floor. No costume. Just a simple dress and a simple room.
Outside is the beautiful destruction of Genosha.

2- Xavier falls to the floor and holds her. She is inconsolable. She is the most tragic figure in the Marvel Universe and worse, she knows she is.

WANDA MAXIMOFF
Oh god!
I- I killed them!
I killed the Avengers!!
Gg- I killed my husband!!

3- Tighter on Xavier. His nose bleeding a little. Mentally fighting Wanda takes everything he has.
He is sweating. He holds her and tries to catch his breath.

WANDA MAXIMOFF
Oh godddddd!!!

PAGE 5

RECAP AND CREDIT PAGE.

PAGE 6

1- Ext. Genosha- late day
Xavier, on a broken balcony to one of the many broken buildings on the broken island of Genosha.
Xavier is taking a moment to himself and wiping the blood from his nose with a handkerchief.
The bombed-out destruction around him glows orange in the late day sun. The destruction is almost beautiful.

MAGNETO
(off panel)
How did it go?

2- Magneto walks up to him from the other side of the balcony. Magneto's entire body is ravaged in remorse over his daughter's situation.

MAGNETO
I heard the screaming.

3- Over Magneto's shoulder as he approaches. Xavier shows him the blood on the handkerchief.

CHARLES XAVIER
That's how it went.

4- Magneto winces and looks away from Xavier. They both look out to the world of mutant massacre in front of them that goes on for as far as the eye can see.

MAGNETO
I'm sorry, Charles.

CHARLES XAVIER
Magnus, Every time your daughter uses her powers to alter reality, she loses more of her grasp on reality.
And it's not getting better.

MAGNETO
Is she asleep?

5- Xavier isn't hammering him, just gently updating him and letting him know what the situation really is.

CHARLES XAVIER
Yes, I 'suggested' she sleep.
She-
We can't keep drugging her and psychically putting her to sleep.
It's inhumane.
And it's hardly foolproof.
And it's barely working.

6- They both stare out to the world around them.

CHARLES XAVIER
Stop blaming yourself, Erik. She's a grown woman.

MAGNETO
Stop reading my mind without permission.

CHARLES XAVIER
I wasn't.

PAGE 7

1- Profile. Magneto is looking down at nothing in particular. Confessing something no one could truly understand.

MAGNETO
I can't help it, Charles.
I put my children through hell because of what I believe.
I destroyed whatever hope they ever had at a decent life...
...because of what I believe. My war against the humans.
And the truth is- I waged my war against the humans and I lost. So now I've lost the war and I've lost my children.
I was prepared to sacrifice them. All of it.
I was. You know that.
But I-
I never imagined it would end up like this.

2- From behind Xavier, Magneto walks away on magnetic fields. Walking on air.

Clearly, from his body language, he wants/ needs to be alone. He is walking toward the center of the island.

MAGNETO
And that the sacrifice would be for nothing.
There are plenty of people who think I probably deserve this.

3- Wide of the balcony. Looking down. Xavier sits there and thinks. Looks at the ruined handkerchief.

CHARLES XAVIER
Maybe...
But she doesn't.

PAGE 8

1- Ext. Avengers Tower- Same
Street level.

Carol Danvers and Wonder Man in civilian coats over their clothes, stand on the busy New York street and look up to the sky, Both seem confused and perturbed by what they are looking at.
A hint of Carol's costume under her coat.
Simon has on his red glasses.
What they do not notice, what no one would notice, including the reader, is a silver haired man way across the street in the background... It's Pietro, Quicksilver, watching them from afar. The reader shouldn't notice without a re-read.
Reads: New York City

CAROL DANVERS
So that's the new Avengers Mansion.

2- Tall panel. Looking past Carol and Simon's head looking way up to the sky.
The giant Stark Tower gleaming in the midday sun. The extreme perspective giving the building a monolith look.
Waaaay up there we see the X-Men Blackbird approaching.

3- Similar to 1, but Sam Wilson, the Falcon, is coming up to them. Sam has a backpack over one shoulder with his costume and wings in it. Carol and Simon both vaguely pleasantly surprised to see him. In the background, Quicksilver is gone.

WONDER MAN
Wonder why they called us old Avengers in?

CAROL DANVERS
Maybe they wanted to not invite us into the New Avengers in person.

FALCON
They didn't not invite us, we quit.

CAROL DANVERS
Hey Sam.

FALCON
Hey Carol.

4- Int. Stark Towers/ main foyer- Same
Wide. Profile. The three Avengers have walked in the giant glass doors that look like any giant glass doors of any building in New York.
They are walking into a very modern office building foyer that is only interesting in that no one is in it. There is no one in there but them. Its a huge marble and glass modern structure. They are dwarfed by the design.
The three are stopped in their tracks by a security system voice.

CAROL DANVERS
We quit after they pulled the plug.

SECURITY SYSTEM
Welcome to Stark Towers.
Identification please.

CAROL DANVERS
(Oh please.)

FALCON
Sam Wilson, Falcon

WONDER MAN
Simon Williams, Wonder Man

CAROL DANVERS
Carol Danvers, Ms. Marvel.

5- Security system p.o.v. high looking down at the three of them being scanned by high tech bio infra red.
A full biological read of all their vitals is being taken simultaneously. Three smaller bio screens, one for each hero, on top of a larger wide shot bio screen.

WONDER MAN
(whisper)
You going back to Ms. Marvel?

CAROL DANVERS
(whisper)
Eh, I'm thinking about it.

SECURITY SYSTEM
ID check confirmed.
Welcome to Stark Towers.
Please proceed to elevator bank 2 to top floor access.

6- The three of them walk away from us and to the elevator banks.
Carol gestures sarcastically at the invisible security system. She used to be an Avenger and she is taking this outsider status thing a little personally.

CAROL DANVERS
Yay, we're allowed in.

FALCON
Why Couldn't we have flown up there?

WONDER MAN
The call said no fly ups.
General public doesn't know the Avengers work out of here yet.
Guess they want to keep it that way as long as they can.

FALCON
Yeah, but I like flying.

PAGE 9

1- Ext. Manhattan/ Stark Towers- day
Page tall. High looking down on the city.
It's the brand new STARK TOWERS.
It's gorgeous. White. New. Light gleams off the side.
Crammed right into the heart of Manhattan. No one notices it. Its just another building in Manhattan. The top three floors will be the Avengers tower.
In the foreground, the X-Men Blackbird is coming in for a landing on the roof.
Reads: Avengers Tower est. 2004

CYCLOPS
Are you sure that's it?

EMMA FROST
Well, it's the only skyscraper with an Avengers Quinjet.

WOLVERINE
That's it.

2- The Blackbird is landing on the roof of the tower, straight down and right next to the parked Quinjet.

THE BEAST
Look at that thing.

EMMA FROST
What?

THE BEAST
The new Quinjet model, that is gorgeous.

KITTY PRYDE
Hank McCoy is a jealous little girl.

EMMA FROST
Tony Stark has all the money.

3- Int. Avengers Tower/ main conference room- Same
Jarvis, in profile, is walking by a wall of high-tech monitors in between the kitchen and the main conference room, he is holding a tray of teas and coffee.

There are different angles on every monitor. One of the screens

shows the Blackbird.
Another shows Carol Danvers, Falcon and Wonder Man coming up in an elevator.

JARVIS
Gentlemen, Master Logan and the X-Men have arrived.

4- Big panel. The Astonishing X-Men are out of the Quinjet and walking toward us. The cool group shot. If it were a film it would be slow motion.
The sun glints off the planes giving the group a fantastic glow.
The X-Men, in uniform are: THE BEAST, EMMA FROST, CYCLOPS, WOLVERINE, KITTY PRYDE, COLOSSUS. Wolverine leading the way. He being both an X-Man and an Avenger.

5- Int. Avengers Tower- Same
The X-Men are coming into the main room of the tower.
Cyclops is asking Wolverine. Uncomfortable being out of the loop.
Emma steps forward in the foreground. She sees him first. She felt his presence but couldn't believe it.

CYCLOPS
Logan, if you know why these Avengers of yours called us here, then just tell-

WOLVERINE
We're here. Ya can't wait four more seconds?

EMMA FROST
Oh my god...

PAGE 10-11

Double page spread
1- Int. Avenger's main meeting room- Same
Big panel. Across both pages.
From behind the X-Men on the left, looking wide showing the Main meeting room.
Gorgeous. Huge. Steel girders giving away to huge plate-glass windows.

One entire floor of the tower is a sparse yet opulent conference room. A huge glass table. All around them in every direction is a great view of New York City skyline at dusk. Not only do the X-Men see the impressive gathering of the new and classic Avengers, but all of New York behind them. It's a tremendous sight.

The Avengers include SPIDER-MAN, CAPTAIN AMERICA, LUKE CAGE, THE SENTRY, CAROL DANVERS, THE WASP, YELLOW JACKET, FALCON, WONDER MAN, IRON MAN, SHE-HULK and DOCTOR STRANGE.

Tony Stark in armor and helmet is stepping up to welcome them in and gesturing to the real shocker of the scene. The return of Charles Xavier to the lives of the X-Men.
Charles is center panel mid ground, handsome, well dressed, wheel-chaired and humbled before his students.
The room is warm and friendly, but there is an air of anticipation. Something is up. On the far left there is another room and three stairs. Jarvis is coming into the room with food and drinks on an opulent tray.

CHARLES XAVIER
X-Men.

2- Profile group shot, Kitty runs and hugs the Professor. They haven't seen him in a very long time.
Charles takes the hug like a stoic father and shakes Scott's hand with pride.
All the Avengers watch this tearful, heartfelt reunion.
These group shots are very important. Fill them with heroes. They set up a true feeling of spectacle.

KITTY PRYDE
Professor!

CHARLES XAVIER
Kitty.

KITTY PRYDE
I hated how things ended between us-

CYCLOPS
You made it quite clear you weren't going to be involving yourself with us and you weren't exactly nice about it.

CHARLES XAVIER
Yes. Well, obviously, something important has come up.

KITTY PRYDE
What are you doing here?

3- Emma looks the most concerned of all the X-Men. Her hand to her temple as her psychic powers are letting her know what is happening before it's said out loud. Scott feels her freeze up.

Behind her, Wolverine gives Luke Cage a manly teammate shake. But the tone of the room is very somber.

CYCLOPS
Emma, what is it?

EMMA FROST
Just let the Professor tell you.

4- Xavier surrounded by his X-Men addresses the room.

CHARLES XAVIER
I have made this special trip to New York to discuss with you an almost impossible matter.

5- Same but tighter, Xavier clenches his jaw, sealing the witch's fate one way or another.

CHARLES XAVIER
We need to decide the fate of Wanda Maximoff.

PAGE 12

1- Int. Genosha/Xavier's/Wanda's room- night
High looking down, full figure.
Wanda lies there. Sleeping. Her hair tossed. A prisoner in her plain bedroom.
A wool blanket covers her lanky, almost emaciated frame. The moonlight lights her.
The shadow of a man's figure slides across her in the moonlight. Heavy shadows dip the room in somber mystery.

2- Same, but tighter on a sleeping peaceful Wanda.
The shadow of a man sliding over her.

3- Wanda lies in profile in the foreground, Pietro Maximoff, in costume, crouches.
His face is wracked with grief in the half light. He still can't believe what has happened to his life and his sister.

4- Tight on Pietro. He stares down at his ailing sister. His face lost in unbelievable anguish. He can't even cry he is so devastated.

MAGNETO
(off panel)
What are you doing here, boy?

5- From behind Quicksilver, Magneto stands in the doorway, backlit by the moon.

QUICKSILVER
They are going to kill her.

MAGNETO
What?

PAGE 13

1- From behind Magneto, Quicksilver gets up to his feet and points right at Magneto, blaming him for all of this. Magneto stands his ground.

QUICKSILVER
They are going to kill her!

2- Two shot. Quicksilver desperate and angry. Magneto stands his ground. The moonlight creating a sliver of light off of the mostly silhouetted faces.

QUICKSILVER
Xavier, the rest...
All the Avengers. All the X-Men.
They are meeting right now in New York. I saw just there.
They are agreeing to kill her. Why else would they meet?
They are going to decide there is no other way and they are going to come here and kill her.
My sister!! Your own daughter!!

3- Magneto's mouth snarls from his son's disrespect. He has no argument. Both half lit in the moonlight.

MAGNETO
Pietro...
...they may be right.

4- Over Magneto's shoulder, Pietro's face blurs out of eyesight. He's standing there but he is yelling so quickly no one can see his face or hear him.

Draw it straight and we'll blur it out in Photoshop.

5- Magneto shakes his head in frustration.

MAGNETO
I can't- Pietro, no one can hear you when you yell that fast.

6- Quicksilver's anguished face comes mostly back into focus.

QUICKSILVER
I swore my life to protect her!!
First from you.
And now from them?
The Avengers were our family and now they are going to kill her?!!
And- and you agree??!!

7- Magneto presses his lips together. He has no fight left in him.

MAGNETO
What would you have me do?!!

PAGE 14

1- Quicksilver is totally lost to the world. Frustrated beyond belief. He is gesturing and crying. His hands half blurred in motion effect.

QUICKSILVER
They're going to kill her!!

2- Magneto grabs his son to focus and settle him and yells in his face. A hint of the old Magneto.

MAGNETO
What would you have me do??!!

3- Wider. Quicksilver falls to his knees. Totally devastated. Totally lost. Magneto holds steady as his son cries like an animal at his feet.

QUICKSILVER
Agghhuh!

4- Low looking up. Head and shoulders on Magneto. His steely resolve built over decades of fighting begins to crumble. His jaw quivers. His eyes water.

5- Magneto's p.o.v. Looking down at his daughter. She lies there in the half light. A lost little girl sleeping on her own hand

6- Same as 4, but tighter. Tighter on Magneto. His watery eyes and quivering resolve.

A man who has failed on every possible level.

Continuing the Avengers Tower scene.
1- Int. Avengers Tower- main meeting room- day
Emma Frost shrugs. She doesn't even see an option. Cyclops and Kitty are shocked at her frankness.

EMMA FROST
What is there to say?
Put her down.

2- Spider-Man perks up, but Captain America steps forward and puts his foot down.
Wonder Man is flabbergasted at the thought. Wolverine is hanging back from the group eating a cheese puff.

WONDER MAN
No!!

SPIDER-MAN
Put her down? What is she? A dog?

CAPTAIN AMERICA
I won't even entertain the thought.

WONDER MAN
No!

PAGE 15

3- Tighter on Wolverine- hanging back from the group eating a cheese puff.

WOLVERINE
Even though they just spent twenty minutes explaining that the girl's out to lunch and that the world is in every kind of danger because of her?

4- Wolverine's p.o.v. Wide of the room. Everyone kind of shocked that this is an actual conversation.
Captain America whips around and doesn't yell it, but he comes pretty close.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
There is always a way.

5- Wolverine shrugs, respectfully, but he knows he is right.

WOLVERINE
Not always.

6- Same as 4, but tighter. Cap is not arguing this.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Always!

7- Emma feels everyone's looks of shock, but she turns and asks Xavier frankly.

EMMA FROST
Okay. Charles, be honest...
You're the most powerful psychic mind on the planet...
Can you help her?

PAGE 16

1- From over the shoulders of most of the Avengers, Janet looking at Hank in shock. Carol pacing in frustration. Everyone on edge, Center panel, Xavier exhales...

CHARLES XAVIER
If I could, Emma, I wouldn't be here having this conversation.

2- Emma looks over to Strange and sincerely asks...

EMMA FROST
Doctor Strange... is there anything in the mystic arts that could help her-?

3- Mid shot. Strange, with a regal air, cocks an eyebrow and shrugs...

DOCTOR STRANGE
I don't know.

4- Emma gently holds up her hand to stop Kitty who was about to interrupt her. Emma never takes her eyes off the off panel Strange.

EMMA FROST
Have you been able to help her so far?

5- Strange bows his answer.

DOCTOR STRANGE
No.

6- Emma argues her point as clearly as she can.
No stone unturned.

EMMA FROST
Have you tried everything you possibly can?

7- Strange offers...

DOCTOR STRANGE
At the moment, yes.

8- Emma offers it to the room.

EMMA FROST
Anyone else have-?

9- Strange offers more...

DOCTOR STRANGE
But I am still researching.

PAGE 17

1- From behind Emma, Captain America steps forward and makes it clear that this is all he needs.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
So that's it then.
He's still working on it.
We let the doctor do what he has to do.

2- Wolverine is rummaging through the hors d'oeuvres. Luke Cage is watching him, stunned by his frankness.

WOLVERINE
And what if the witch gets bored in the meantime?
I've known Chuck a good long time...
If the guy says he can't hold her much longer, he can't hold her much longer.

3- Wide of the room. All eyes on Xavier, waiting for him to say something, but he doesn't. This is tense. This is 12 Angry Men.

4- Same, Emma gestures.

EMMA FROST
Should we vote?

5- Captain America steps into Emma's space. He isn't yelling he is firmly putting it his way.
She does not back down. She respects him immensely but doesn't back down.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
No.
She's not an X-Man, she's an Avenger.
The Avengers say no.

EMMA FROST
Well, we haven't heard from all of them.
But she is a mutant threat.
And we X-Men have dedicated our lives to dealing with mutant threats.

6- Behind Emma, Kitty can't believe this is happening. Emma turns and answers her before she finishes.

KITTY PRYDE
Threats to mutants not mutant-

EMMA FROST
We do both.
This one- Wanda- is both. If word got out that-

KITTY PRYDE
This is wrong.

7- From behind Xavier, Emma addresses the room.

EMMA FROST
If word got out that the witch was responsible for what happened to the Avengers...
That a mutant killed beloved heroes of this city...
If the world found out that an out-of-control mutant with reality-altering powers was out there somewhere with a screw loose...
It would send mutant/human relations back to the Stone Age.
That would be it for us.

PAGE 18

1- Carol looks to Cap, she steps up and backs him up. Iron Man does too. Wolverine is walking behind them. Passing by.

CAROL DANVERS
She's an Avenger. It's our call.

IRON MAN
I agree.

WOLVERINE
Someone do the math for me...
How many more of you does she have to kill before you snap out of it?

SPIDER-MAN
(off panel)
Jeez...

2- Spider-Man, stuck to a window offers.

SPIDER-MAN
So, like, if any of my powers wig out on me I can count on you all to just kill me?

3- Wolverine in the foreground says it plainly, in the background, Cyclops and the others look to Xavier for some reason...

WOLVERINE
Yeah.
Hope I can count on you to do the same.

CYCLOPS
Professor, I can't believe you would even entertain this?

CHARLES XAVIER
Scott-

4- High looking down, Xavier looks up at his X-Men, he sincerely doesn't know what to do.

CHARLES XAVIER
I DON'T KNOW what to do.

5- Janet Van Dyne steps forward and makes it clear nothing happens until...

JANET VAN DYNE
Wanda was like a sister to me.
I need to hear what she wants. I need to see her.

6- Carol nods. This is a good idea. Cap steps forward and asks...

CAROL DANVERS
Janet's right.
Me too.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Charles? Can you and Ms. Frost protect us from Wanda if there's trouble?

7- Charles looks at Doctor Strange.

DOCTOR STRANGE
Together we can.

8- Spider-Man sighs. He does not want to get near any of this but now he has to because he signed on.

SPIDER-MAN
Oy...
I'm not gonna be home for dinner, am I?

PAGE 19

1- Ext. Blackbird/ Genosha- dusk
Slightly low looking up, Kitty Pryde and Scott Summers look out their plane's window. In shock over what they are seeing on the ground below. Kitty's eyes are watering. It truly is a shocking tragedy on the ground below. Neither Kitty or Scott Summers have seen Genosha before. Wolverine has seen it. He feels for them in his stoic way.

CYCLOPS
Genosha...

KITTY PRYDE
I hate this place.

WOLVERINE
It ain't Paradise Island.

2- Ext. Genosha- late day
Huge panel. The X-Men Blackbird and the Avengers Quinjet are entering the island's airspace and getting ready to land dwarfed by the massive destruction of the island of Genosha.
The broken buildings in the broken island of Genosha. The bombed out destruction around him glows orange in the late day sun. The destruction is almost beautiful.

KITTY PRYDE
All- all I see when I see this place is...
That this is what the humans would do to us.

3- Thin widescreen panel. All the Avengers and X-men are out of their planes and standing in an impressive line.
Everyone looking up and out to the new world around them.
Everyone in costume. Everyone not really excited to see what they are about to see.
Xavier toward the right of the panel has rolled forward. He, in the half light of dawn, seems very concerned. Emma behind him, feels his panic before Xavier even announces it.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Okay, Professor, lead the way,

CHARLES XAVIER
Oh no.

PAGE 20

1- Int. Wanda's room- Same
In the background, the Avengers and X-Men are at the door to Wanda's plain room.
She is gone. The blanket tossed aside. She isn't where she was supposed to be. Everyone concerned. Clearly.
The people in the doorway are Emma, Cap, Doctor Strange and Xavier. Wanda is gone. Magneto is gone.

2- Doorway- everyone is wildly concerned. Emma and Xavier are looking for her with their psychic powers.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
I don't understand.

IRON MAN
Did Magneto move her?

WONDER MAN
He took her!

IRON MAN
Where's Magneto?

CHARLES XAVIER
She's not on the island. I can't 'see' her-

EMMA FROST
There's something wrong here. Professor do you feel a-

KITTY PRYDE
We should get out of here.

SPIDER-MAN
No duh.

3- Iron Man points to Strange as he uses his internal radar off his arm wrist. Strange has already closed his eyes, his hair blowing in the wind.

IRON MAN
Doctor, can you find Wanda with your-?

CYCLOPS
How could he? If their psychic-

IRON MAN
I don't know, something with the magics or-

SPIDER-MAN
Uh, guys...

4- Emma and everyone turns to see Xavier is gone. His chair, everything, right in the middle of the group.
Xavier has disappeared.

CYCLOPS
Professor!

THE BEAST
He was right here!

KITTY PRYDE
We really should get out of here.

5- Cyclops turns to Emma. Emma has already found him.

CYCLOPS
Emma?

EMMA FROST
Found them.

PAGE 21

1- Half page. The X-Men and Avengers launch into action. Right towards us. Off the balcony and down towards where Emma is leading them.
The wide eyed panic in their faces is fierce. Their worst nightmare has come to bloom instantly. Everyone's minds are racing.

CYCLOPS
Avengers, let Emma take lead. We have more experience with-

CAROL DANVERS
Let's just grab Xavier and get out of here.

IRON MAN
If any of you feel anything different about yourself, try to tell us before it's too-

DOCTOR STRANGE
I'm still not feeling anything in the mystic patterns.
Wanda's not here.

2- Ext. Church- Same
The group lands in front of a broken mutant church. Emma turns and asks Strange.
Everyone on alert and very nervous. The others all looking to Emma and Strange for any hint at what they are supposed to do.

EMMA FROST
She's right in there.

DOCTOR STRANGE
Last time she used her powers she was creating mystic patterns that I am not feeling here.

CYCLOPS
Emma, what are you reading?

IRON MAN
I have nothing on infrared.

3- Emma, in the foreground, is frozen eyed, mouth closed, confused shock. She doesn't answer. Everyone staring at her. The ground troops: Colossus, Wolverine, Kitty, Cap etc. are just catching up to the group.

SPIDER-MAN
Listen, guys, I got this Spider-Sense when there's danger and it's not going off, so I don't know if-

4- Same. Spider-Man steps into the shot, and realizes that everyone is frozen in place with blank looks on their faces. Super hero statues.

SPIDER-MAN
Um...
Hello?

5- Same. Spider-Man realizes everyone is frozen. The world has turned off.
We will eventually reveal that this is what the world looks like to all of them individually.
This is just Spider-Man's p.o.v. It's the one we have chosen here.

SPIDER-MAN
Uh-oh.

PAGE 22

1- Wide, profile, The church doors blow open. Only Spider-Man steps back in surprise. Everyone else is frozen.
None of this is really happening. This has quickly turned into something in Spidey's mind being changed by Wanda through Magneto, through Xavier.

2- Behind Spidey's head and shoulders, he stretches his neck to look inside the church, but from this angle.
We can't see anything but the sides of some broken pews.

3- Int. Church- Same
Inside the door looking out, Spidey is peeking just a bit of his head into frame, scared to see what he is about to see...
All the X-Men and Avengers have disappeared though. This is just about Spider-Man.

We imagine that this is exactly what every hero is going through.

PAGE 23

4- Spidey's p.o.v. as he steps in further. More pews and bombed out church, but just the right side of it, nothing else.

5- Same as 3, but tighter and Spidey sticks his whole head in to see what is in the church.
Three equal sized widescreen panels.
Ok, this is what we will refer to as the House of M. Signature pages. What I will describe in this page should be fully drawn and rendered. Colored.
But here, and in other places, this piece of art will be blown out in white. The effect very similar to a film burning in a projector.
Just a hint of the edges of the art stay regular, but a huge organic black and brown burn separate the art and a desolate white.
This is the moment Magneto changes the world.

PAGE 24

1- Tight on Spidey, wide eyed in the doorway of the broken down church.

2- Same but the blown out M effect is starting right in the middle of the panel. Spidey's face being burned away in the middle giving way to the white page.

3- We can only see the edges. Its almost all white.

White page.
The blown out M effect is in the edges of some part of the page.
We can only see the very edges. It's almost all white.
We will reveal in future issues that this page to be a wide interior of the church with Magneto, Quicksilver and Wanda standing around a blank faced Xavier.
All full figure, all mysterious. Very creepy, quiet.
Xavier being controlled by the House of M. This is the moment the House of M takes over the world.

PAGE 25

1- Int. Parker home/New York- morning
Tight on Peter Parker asleep in bed. Peaceful.

BABY VOICE OFF PANEL
Waaah!

2- Same but slightly wider. Peter winces. Being woken up out of a peaceful sleep.

BABY VOICE OFF PANEL
Waagh!

VOICE OFF PANEL
Peter!

PETER PARKER
Nnn...

VOICE OFF PANEL
Peter, it's your turn.

3- Same but slightly wider. Peter, in a baggy ESU T-shirt and boxers, sits up and shakes off the sleepy.
His bed in profile to us. His wife in the bed next to him. We see her long leg in the bed behind him.
This very normal, lived in bedroom of a very married couple with a baby. Clothes on the floor.
A window in the background. It's New York City.

PETER PARKER
Ugh, how is it my turn?

VOICE OFF PANEL
Waaaagghh!

PETER PARKER
Coming!

4- Same but slightly wider. Peter is mostly off panel as he walks off panel to take care of his baby. We now have a clear view of who is in the bed next to him.
She isn't facing us, but it isn't the red curly hair of Mary Jane. It's the blonde straight hair of Gwen Stacy.
In the foreground left, on the night stand. The wedding photo of Peter Parker and Gwen Stacy-Parker.

TO BE CONTINUED...

BENDIS ON HOUSE OF M

BY MATT BRADY

The hype and buzz may have passed you by, but come June, Marvel launches *House of M #1*, the publisher's return to universe-wide crossover stories, bringing all of the heroes of the Marvel Universe together to battle a single threat.

What makes *House of M* unique is that that threat is one of their own: the Scarlet Witch, a mutant and former member of the Avengers.

But now, thanks to the events shown in the "Avengers Disassembled" story arc, the Scarlet Witch is not…well. At all. Her powers are out of control, and at the end of "Disassembled," she was taken into custody by her father, Magneto – the mutant terrorist. Since that time, Magneto and Professor Xavier of the X-Men have been trying to help Wanda, only to have something go wrong – terribly wrong. And in June, at the start of *House of M*, Wanda's two "families," the Avengers and the X-Men, must join to decide her fate.

Written by Brian Bendis, with art by penciler Olivier Coipel, inker Tim Townsend and colorist Frank D'Armata, the eight-issue miniseries promises to seriously alter the status quo of the Marvel Universe.

We spoke with Bendis about the project.

Newsarama: The first question about the story would be in line with what I asked Tom Brevoort about the origin. It didn't come up hand-in-hand with "Avengers Disassembled," but rather, this came up as you all looked at the pieces afterwards?

Brian Bendis: Pretty much. "Disassembled" was flowing, and I was talking to Joe and said, "Hey, you know – there's something bigger here, this X-Men/Avengers thing, because there's a connection for both the teams that they would each have to deal with, with the Magneto ending, and all of that."

Joe gave me one of his "Whatever" looks, and then a day later, asked if I was serious about it. I guess it took a little while to sink in. Then it was approached in a bigger meeting, and everyone started riffing on it, because it affects so many other people's books. Honestly, I was worried about that part of it – everyone has plans for their own book, whether they've told their editors or not, and I didn't want to be stepping on anyone or everyone's toes just because I came up with an idea.

So the meeting started off as tossing the idea out, and asking people if they thought it was a good thing or a bad thing, and that's when people started riffing on it, and adding their own stories into the larger mix. That's when it all became bigger – I don't, and hadn't been thinking event, I had only been thinking story.

NRAMA: So from the start of this, even you weren't seeing all the ripples that tossing this stone in the pond that is the Marvel Universe would make?

BB: Not really. I don't go into the editorial meetings and declare that I have an event. It was very important to me that anyone involved wanted to be involved, and no one's stories were getting screwed up. I mean, I remember reading stuff as a kid, and you could tell that *Secret Wars II* was being shoved down the throats of the creative teams on the series at the time.

So, it was nice that everyone saw it as something that they could have fun with in their own books. It's also one of those one-time deals – you can't dip into this pond too many times. You have to do it once, and do it right, and when you catch me talking about *House of M II* in 2007, I'll deny that I just said that.

But seriously, it does feel very much like a one-time, special deal, and it also feels like a new kind of thing, but something that had seeds in a lot of different stories in Marvel history and evolved from there.

NRAMA: Storywise as it goes, how long after the end of "Avengers Disassembled" does *House of M #1* begin?

BB: A few months.

NRAMA: And what's been going on with Magneto, Wanda, and Professor Xavier is covered in *Excalibur*?

BB: And in *House of M #1*. You can pick up *House of M #1* blind, without even having read "Avengers Disassembled" to understand what is going on. It's very clear – there's nothing more basic than a father-daughter relationship, and the pain of a father when his daughter is ill. It's also got a very clear, very concise view of the things that have gone on in the Marvel Universe, and everyone's fear is very clear.

NRAMA: There's a lot out there about the effects that *House of M* will have on the Marvel Universe as a whole, both from rumors and what can be read into what will be happening in the spin-off miniseries. When you started to tell your story, was it as far-reaching as the entire Marvel Universe, or were more of the extended effects part of what happened when other people came on board and started seeing how it would affect their books and characters?

BB: The latter. The story started coming together, and you can't help but start seeing cause and effects happening as you go along – some pretty big cause and effects – but that doesn't necessarily mean that you should tell that in the main story. The main *House of M* story has to have its own limits, otherwise it would end up all over the place – you could end up telling the story for ten years if you start following every trail of cause and effect, but we wanted to show that all of this – all the effects of what was going on in the main story are happening at the same time. I'm telling a story that pushes all the other pieces, but the other pieces are moving on their own after I give them a push.

That's where Tom became the genius behind *House of M*. What he was able to do, to take my ramblings and craft it into something that everyone else could look at and then add to – he just blew it away. You look at someone who has the number of years of experience that someone like Tom [Brevoort] or Ralph Macchio has working in the Marvel Universe, and it's this kind of project where they get to fire on all cylinders. Everything they do well is wrapped up in this kind of story, and like I said, Tom just killed in the organization and seeing the logical ripple effects. I couldn't even begin to take credit for the editorial finesse that is involved – Tom's able to keep track and guide something like forty creators working on stories connected to *House of M*, and have it all fit and make sense. I'm just in awe of what he's doing with it all.

NRAMA: So if people can come into this blind – hit us with the pitch. Where are things standing when the first issue starts?

BB: When people come into the *House of M*, by page four, you see that Wanda – who I do see misrepresented online – she's not a villain, she's a tragic figure. She's not in control of herself. There's a difference between a villain and someone who's totally lost control of what they are able to do. It's a very sad way for anyone to end up, and I think most people got that at least. They didn't like to see it, but they got that Wanda had lost control.

So – at the beginning, you have this mutant, Wanda, who's the daughter of the biggest mutant terrorist of all time. She has these reality-altering powers, and she has lost control of them through the stress of life – the physical and mental stress that her powers, undefined as they were for so many years, had put upon her. So here she is: a mutant who has lost control of her powers.

Got that?

NRAMA: She's lost control…right…

BB: No, the bigger view – in the Marvel Universe, that's one of the top ten, probably in the top two, biggest fears of humankind. Many people in the Marvel Universe know they're sharing the planet with mutants, and now one has totally lost control. And it's one of the most powerful ones.

When humans are afraid of mutants in the Marvel Universe, what are they afraid of? They're afraid of a mutant who is totally out of control – that affects their lives.

So, if the word got out that a reality-altering mutant was responsible for the hellish nightmare that was the end of the Avengers, as well as a pretty lousy day for New York City as well – can you imagine? Anybody who is looking to get the mutants, to turn public sentiment against them, to control them, to imprison them even, there's the smoking gun. Wanda's the smoking gun.

On top of that, you have Magneto who, for all intents and purposes, sold his entire life and the happiness of his children for war against the humans, which he lost.

NRAMA: You're harshing Magneto in all of this as well?

BB: How else would you put it? He's tried for years, and he's never gotten what he wanted. He lost. Genosha is in ruins, mutants do not control the earth, and he does not control the mutants. Nothing that he wanted happened.

And, on top of that, he lost his children. He's looking at his daughter who's now the worst-case scenario for mutants; and his son…ehhh…don't even get him started. It's the worst thing he could imagine.

From there, you have Xavier trying desperately to do what he can do, and he can't even hold it together for Wanda. From there, the story launches.

NRAMA: And the decision has to be made…

BB: Right – what will the assembled X-Men and Avengers do? I will tell you the one thing I see that most people are fearful of – that this story is some kind of alternative universe…

It's not. What's happening to the Marvel Universe is actually happening to the Marvel Universe. This isn't some kind of weirdness that spins out that isn't real – it's all real. It's not a What If? it's not a dream – it's really happening.

NRAMA: This isn't a story where...?

BB: Bobby Ewing comes out of the shower at the end? No. This is actually happening and will have effects. Things are not going to go back the way they were. I know that's a little scary, but it's a big story.

NRAMA: When you speak of seeing Wanda as a tragic character – you're seeing her more as the human character, almost in a way, going back to the Stan and Jack views of the heroes with feet of… well, maybe not clay, but they're not untouchable icons of complete control and utter infallibility…

BB: Yeah, but this all has historical roots dating back to Stan and Jack. If you go back and read the older stories, back when she was with the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, and how tortured she was then, and how tortured she was during her Silver Age appearances in *Avengers*, and how she worked really hard to make something of herself…she always had that underpinning of her legacy and doubt.

So, it's not like all of a sudden, she turned. You could always see her wrestling with her outsider-ness, her trouble with her powers, trying to define herself, her relationship with her brother and her relationship with her father. The tragedy is that she almost had it all together, and it all fell apart on her.

NRAMA: But the Marvel Universe has more than its share of magicians and mutants who could seemingly fix Wanda's problems…why not just wave the woogie stick at her and have her be all better?

BB: Well Xavier is trying, but by waving the…whatever the hell you said at her and fixing things…would that be a good story? To me, it's so much more interesting that there's a real moral problem in how to deal with this. Here's someone who, for the Avengers, is part of their family. Also, with the X-Men…you can talk a good game about what you think the world should be like, and what you stand for, but when you're faced with a real moral conundrum, what do you do with this problem? That's where the more interesting parts of the story for me pop up

NRAMA: That said, then, the moral question comes down to the mutants and heroes of the Marvel Universe having to think about killing one of their own, right?

BB: Yes, and it's discussed quite frankly, right in the first issue.

NRAMA: Were you looking to have the story be a forum for the discussion of capital punishment or…preemptive capital punishment?

BB: It's a discussion among the characters, but nothing is being preached, because I don't have an opinion about it, myself. But, of course, the characters have very distinct opinions that they have voiced over the years, so it's nice to have all those opinions in a room, having a conversation.

If you put these characters in a room, and that subject comes up, Captain America is going to say what he wants to say, Wolverine is going to say what he wants to say, and no one is going to back down, because they really believe what they believe. That makes for interesting conversation, and hey, I think people know at this point that I would never shy away from characters having what I believe would be an interesting conversation.

NRAMA: But still…bringing up something like a preemptive execution, especially of a well-liked character…you're going to push some buttons…

BB: Oh, I know. But what is funny when you do a scene like that…people who do have a very strong opinion about a subject like that usually tend to get very sensitive that they're being preached to or something. They tend to only hear the side that they don't like to hear. It's like *Million Dollar Baby* – not that

it's about capital punishment, and not to ruin the movie, but there are people protesting it, saying it glorifies one side of an issue that they disagree with. Actually, it makes a pretty strong argument both for and against the issue at hand pretty clearly.

But I know – a lot of people are going to get pretty sensitive when the subject is brought up.

NRAMA: With the discussion of Wanda's fate, are people on the lines fans would expect them to be?

BB: Oh yeah. There's no way that Tom or Ralph would let me write Captain America saying, "You know what? She's caused enough trouble. I say we kill her." Nothing like that would happen, and that's so out of character for Cap I wouldn't even try it. The characters are already so well defined on this kind of subject, either by dealing with it in their pasts, or by dealing with others like it, it's not even a point of argument as to how these characters would react and feel about it. All the way down to Spider-Man, everyone has made their opinions clear if not through words, then through their actions over the course of the last 40 years. It's not really up to interpretation.

Of course, someone will take point with something, but that's what the internet is for.

Oh – and for people who think I'm giving too much away, this is only like the first ten pages of the first issue. This is nothing compared to the cyclone that hits in issues #2 and #3.

NRAMA: Going back a way – you mentioned Magneto's son, Quicksilver. What's he doing in all of this? After all, depending on who's interpreting him, he's been both violently opposed to his father or the heir apparent to his father's crusade…

BB: He's another interesting one, since we were just talking about people with very concrete points of view. Pietro and Wanda have both wavered back and forth on issues, one obviously being a member of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants and being an Avenger two days later, but he's also a man who has dedicated his life to protecting his sister.

NRAMA: So he's not taking this well?

BB: Not at all. He's dedicated his life to protecting his sister, and he didn't. Knowing what Quicksilver is like, who would he blame the most for this? Himself. So, that's all addressed in the first issue as well, and he will be a major part of what's going on as well.

NRAMA: Looking at the mechanics side of things – you came into Marvel writing the single hero, with *Ultimate Spider-Man* and *Daredevil*, and then moved to your teams, with *Ultimate X-Men* and now *New Avengers*. Now, with *House of M*, you're writing the entire universe, for lack of a better word. What changes in your approach from handling a single hero or small team to the full roster of the Marvel Universe?

BB: Well, the plotting has to be much more precise. There are other places where you can just write and see what happens, and sometimes magic does happen – you know where you have to end, and you let the character get you there. Some of the stuff I've written that people have enjoyed the most has come out of that approach, of just letting the characters go, and in a sense, letting them tell the story.

NRAMA: Not with something like this, though?

BB: Not at all. In this instance, you really have to tighten up, and you have to know where you're going, very clearly. But what I discovered during my *X-Men* run is just to find from whose point of view the story is most interesting. That works for whatever scene you're in – find whose point of view makes things the most interesting or whose point of view hasn't been seen before – even during the fight scenes, where you put the reader in the action – what's the most interesting way, whose eyes are the most interesting for the reader to look through?

And I'll steal from everyone in this instance – I'll steal from Neal Adams to Jackie Chan. You should see the laundry list of things that I put in the script, like, "In Rumble in the Bronx, Jackie put the camera here and really got the feel of a…" It's something that makes for the best story, finding the best place to put the reader, since you have more than one viewpoint. In this instance, Magneto will have the most interesting point of view, and then in another scene, Cap will. A lot of the time, the easiest way to do this is to ask yourself, "Who in the room knows the least?" If you're in a group and Cyclops has no ideas what's going on, that's the most interesting point of view for the reader, because now you want to know everything that he wants to know.

NRAMA: In being given the keys to this particular car, and writing such a universe-spanning story; along with being a big Marvel fan in your own right…

BB: And that's true – even though people love to say I hate my characters. I love, absolutely adore, the characters I write, but I want to make them interesting. I love Matt Murdock, but "Daredevil: The Backrub Issue" doesn't make for an interesting story. You have to put characters through hard times and rough situations if you want them to be interesting. Otherwise, who cares about them?

NRAMA: And is this also what you're showing a bit more on the macro scale at the start of *House of M #1* in that not everyone is going to agree what they should do with Wanda?

BB: Exactly. You don't have a summit meeting between the two most powerful groups of heroes on the planet and have them all agree with one another. You're going to see relationships and motivations change as a result of what happens in the story – starting with the meeting.

NRAMA: That said, in tackling a story like this while being a fan, do you have to work to "kill your darlings" in a way to make sure that you're not putting in pieces that are there for you, and not as much for the good of the larger story?

BB: Yeah, to a degree, but more importantly, it's not so much the stuff for me, as a fan, specifically, but it's about drawing from the years and years of stories – of stuff that Chris Claremont has done, that other *Avengers* writers have done, up to what Joss has done – it's about pulling in influences and how they affect a story like this. Years of Marvel life experience do help.

NRAMA: Back to the nuts and bolts of the series – when did it come down that Olivier Coipel was going to be the artist on this?

BB: I was working on "Disassembled," and was re-reading Geoff Johns' issues, and I really fell in love with Olivier's work. It didn't click with me the first time I read it for some reason, but for some reason, the second time through, I just wanted him to work on something with me. So, when I wanted the flashback in *Avengers #503* to have taken place during Geoff's run, I asked if we could get Olivier to do it, partly for the accuracy, and partly because I knew David Finch needed every break he could get on the double issues.

That led to us talking more about working together, and then, two weeks later, I was pitching *House of M* and asked if he was busy. They said they were looking for something big to put him on, and there we go.

NRAMA: Looking at his work, and comparing it even with his previous *Avengers* work – it may be part of the pairing with Tim Townsend, but it looks cleaner and more refined than what he used to do.

BB: It's Tim, and it's part Frank D'Armata as well, who's the colorist on New Avengers as well. But as for Olivier, historically, artists have been defined or made their names for years on big stories and big events, and I think he knows that and is taking it very seriously, which I can't complain about, because it means he's producing the best work of his career. To me, it has a Michael Golden meets Gaijin Studios feel.

He's giving it everything he's got, which is inspiring me to step up my game as well.

NRAMA: Scope-wise, this kind of has an old-school crossover feel to it in that old characters are coming back, and some new ones will show up, right?

BB: Yeah – you're going to be seeing the "old" Avengers and the New Avengers together throughout the entire series. I know some people were fearful that the classic Avengers were going to be thrown by the wayside, but even before *House of M* started taking shape, that was never the intention. They're all going to find nice homes and move on to their next chapters, and this is one of the bigger ones.

Also, you get some fallout from "Disassembled" even in issue #1, where some of the characters, and there will be some readers who probably agree with them, think that the whole thing sucked, and they're not happy with how things have picked back up again.

You also get some characters you haven't seen in a long time, like Cloak and Dagger, coming back front and center. I think people will be surprised who ends up in the cast for the bulk of the story.

And a ton of X-characters. Many that people haven't seen in a long, long time…

NRAMA: Winding things down…as it's been set up, that the world changes, it seems that it could be either Scarlet Witch's doing on her own, or Magneto seeing this as his chance for victory…

BB: Exactly. Not only has something happened, we're not sure how it happened or who instigated it. But you'll find out in the series. There's a whodunit, and whatdunnit, on top of the action in the series…you'll find out in issue #7. Promise.

NRAMA: How far down the road in regards to change is Wanda from when she was an Avenger?

BB: Physically or mentally?

NRAMA: Mentally. Can her friends see a bit of the Wanda they remember and love, or is all that she was gone?

BB: That's part of what you'll find out in the series. I'm not trying to be coy, but I'm hoping that's one of the things that people will be intrigued about the most of the whole thing.

NRAMA: So she could be the megalomaniac screaming from the mountaintop, or perhaps even more disturbing, the good old Wanda they all know and love…but just a little…off…

BB: Could be. But *The Incredibles* has made it very hard for any comic book writer to write the monologues. It's very hard to get the characters into the "Ha-ha-ha! I will rule the world!!!" You can't do it anymore after *The Incredibles*. Everyone is very aware of the monologue, and it's very hard to get away with.

NRAMA: This fall…tell me about the Marvel Universe, post House of M.

BB: It's not going to be that easy to get it out of me. I will say though, one of the things I am most proud of in the making of an event out of this is that the actual tie-ins and the aftermath particularly are of very high quality and are very well planned. I think we've all seen so-called event books that were tremendous, but the aftermaths were a disaster. No matter what the intention was, they got worse at the end or afterwards. I always thought it would be awesome if the aftermath of the event really had a point, and I think we really have something here. It will carry into *New Avengers*, it will carry into the X-books, and everyone has grabbed pieces that they liked and wanted to tell new kinds of stories about, which is always the most exciting for both creators and readers. I've got a new villain coming out of this into *New Avengers*, there are stories coming with the X-Men that you've never seen the X-Men in before…and on down the line. When you've got things like that rolling, you know you've got something.

NRAMA: The teaser poster for *House of M: United, Divided, They Fall*…is that indicating that this is something that's too big, even for all the heroes?

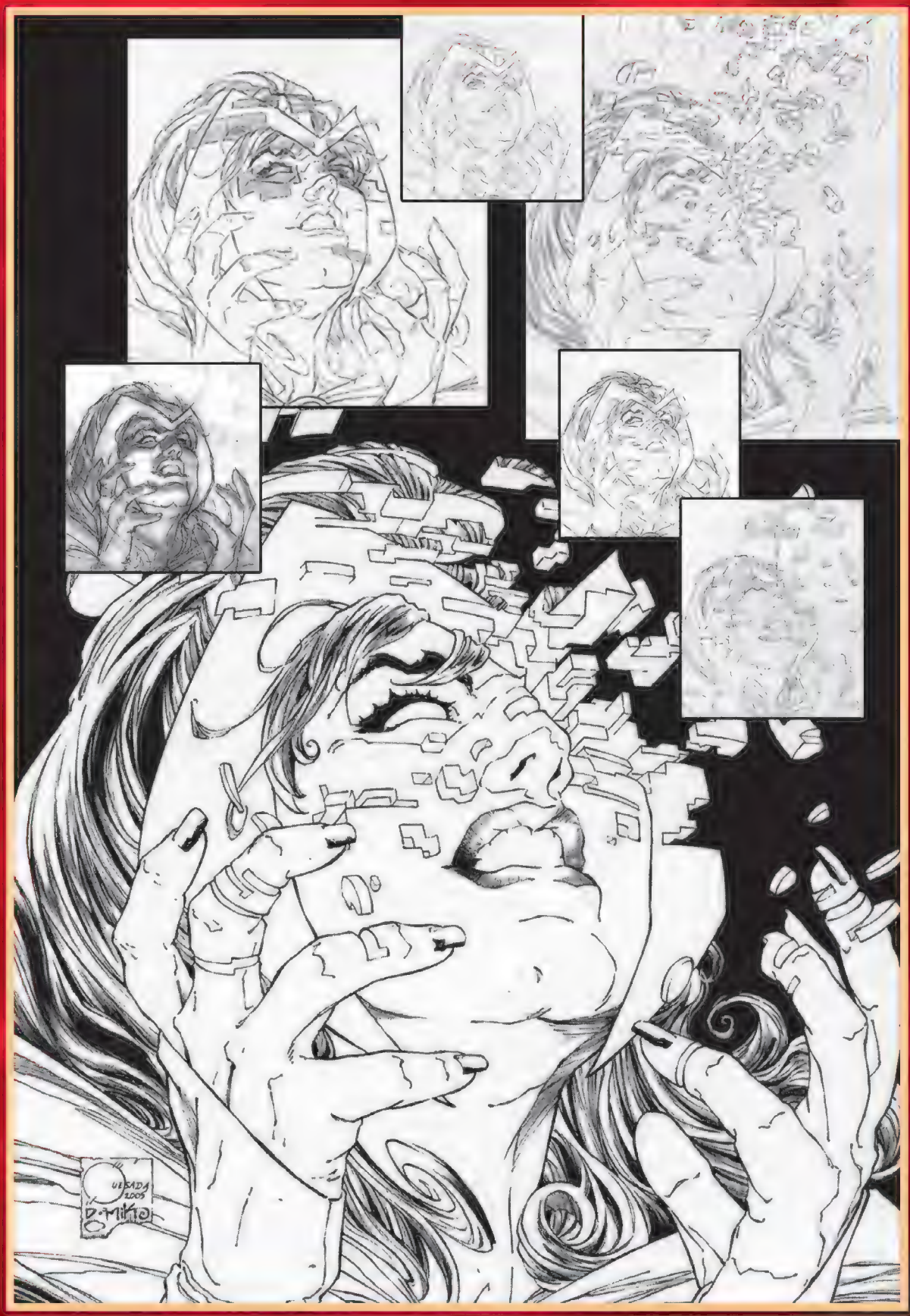
BB: You'll see. I'm being coy again, I know.

One thing I do want to say is that this has been a great few months writing these big, giant stories for Marvel. Especially after "Disassembled," I mean, who knew what the response to *New Avengers* would be? The responsibility of it all is being taken very seriously by all the parties involved, and I'm just really happy seeing how intrigued people are. I don't know what the reaction will be when it comes out – I can hope for the best, but for now, seeing people's genuine curiosity is so goddamn exciting. It really does motivate everyone to do the best they can on their jobs. So, yeah – we all really do want to thank people for their questions, wonderings, and speculation. It's really, really nice to have happen.

NRAMA: Last thing – for you, as either fan or writer, what's the best part of all of this?

BB: What's most exciting when I'm writing it is seeing old friends again, thrust into the spotlight. Meeting new characters and wondering what will become of them is great as well. And of course, the biggie – that this is actually happening to the Marvel Universe, and isn't just a story in some alternative universe – that's the most intriguing, and the scariest, part of it all.

THIS INTERVIEW FIRST APPEARED ON NEWSARAMA.COM.



HOUSE OF M #1

VARIANT COVER SKETCHES BY JOE QUESADA,
AND FINAL ART BY JOE QUESADA & DANNY MIKI

HOUSE OF M #1

VARIANT COVER SKETCH AND IN-PROGRESS PENCILS BY OLIVIER COIPEL

HOUSE OF M #1

VARIANT COVER PENCILS BY OLIVIER COIPEL

HOUSE OF M #1

COVER SKETCH AND PENCILS BY ESAD RIBIĆ

HOUSE OF M #1

PAGES 1-24 PENCILS BY OLIVIER COIPEL

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ANGELUS / XMEN
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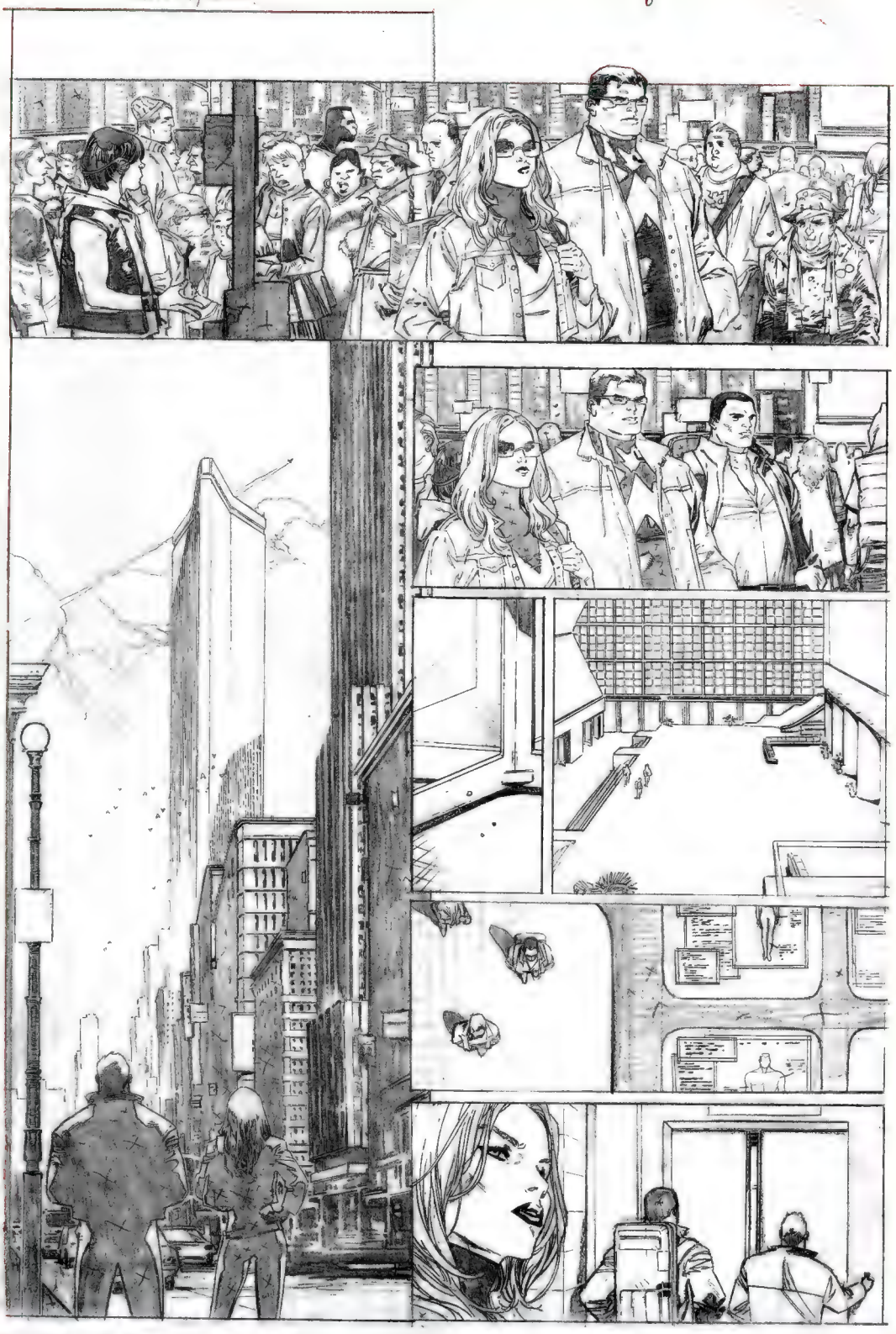
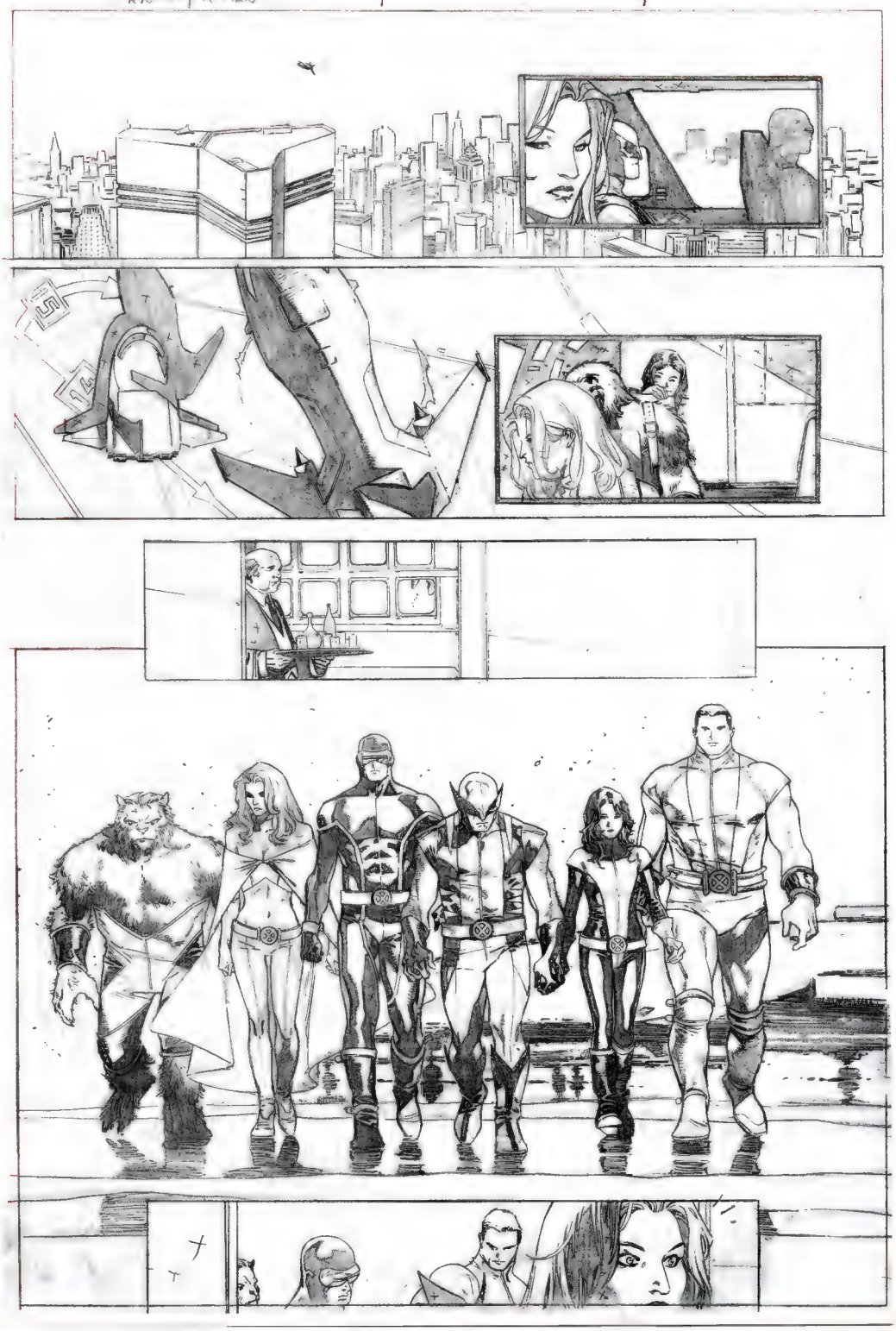
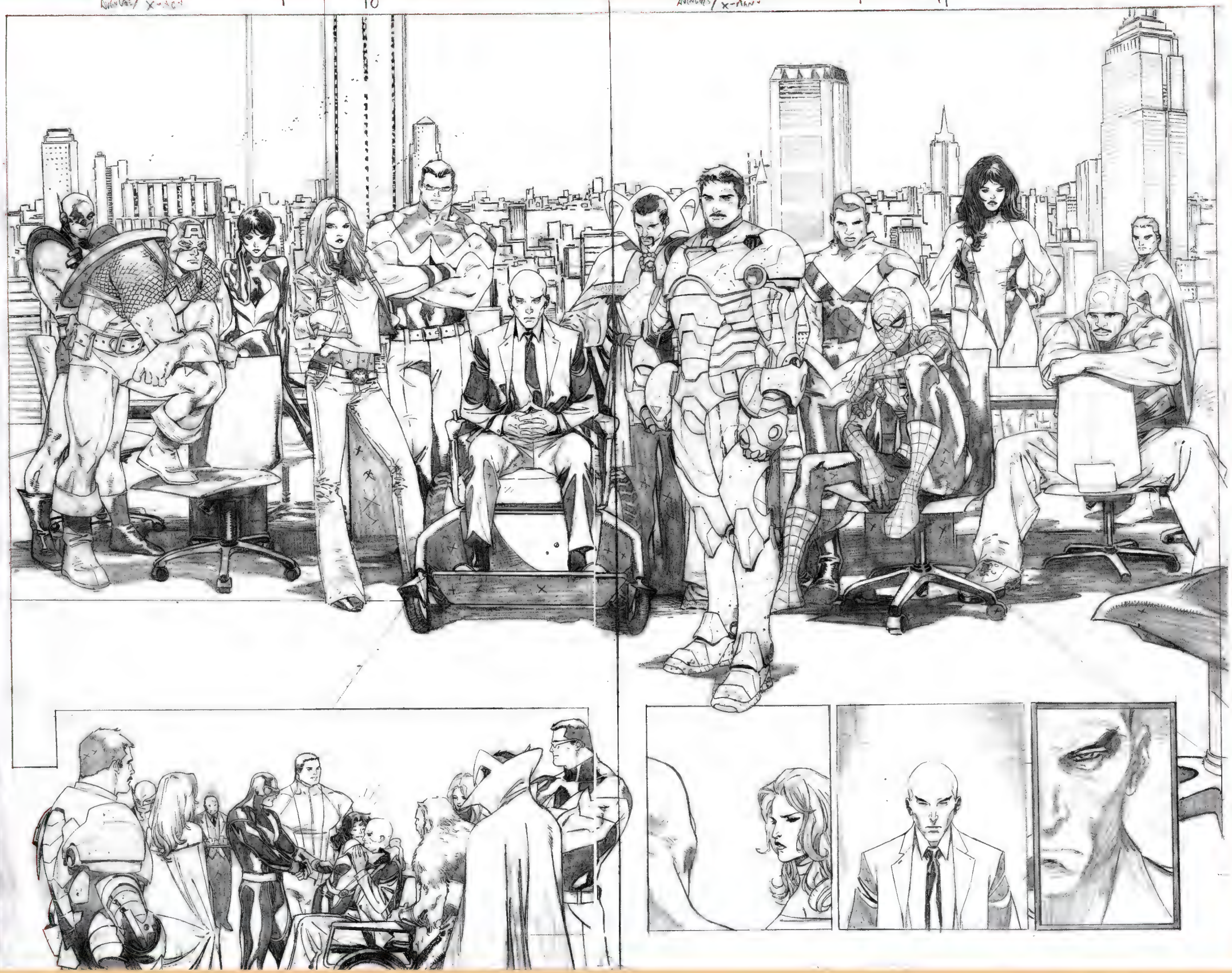
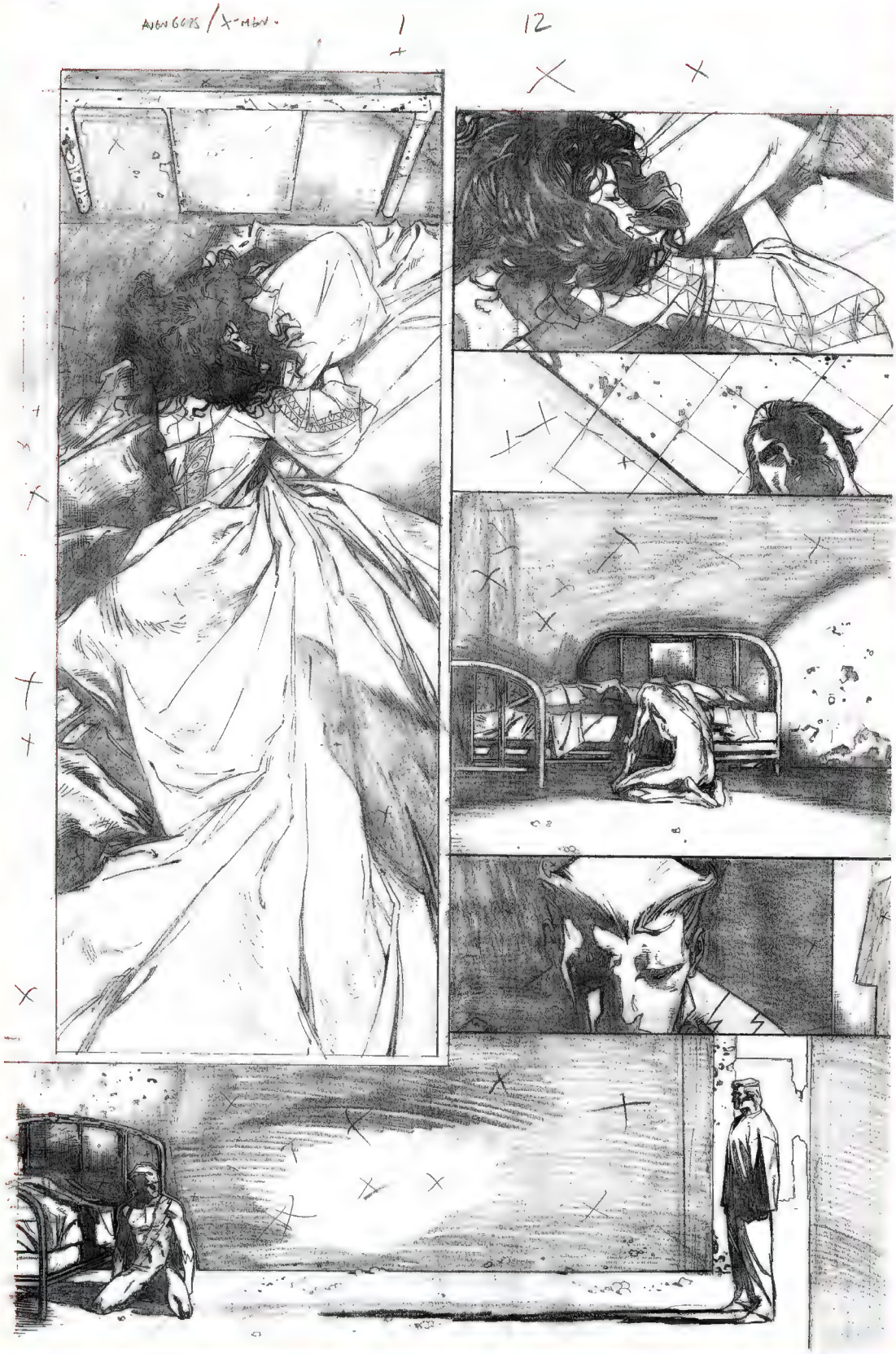
AVENGERS /X-MEN.





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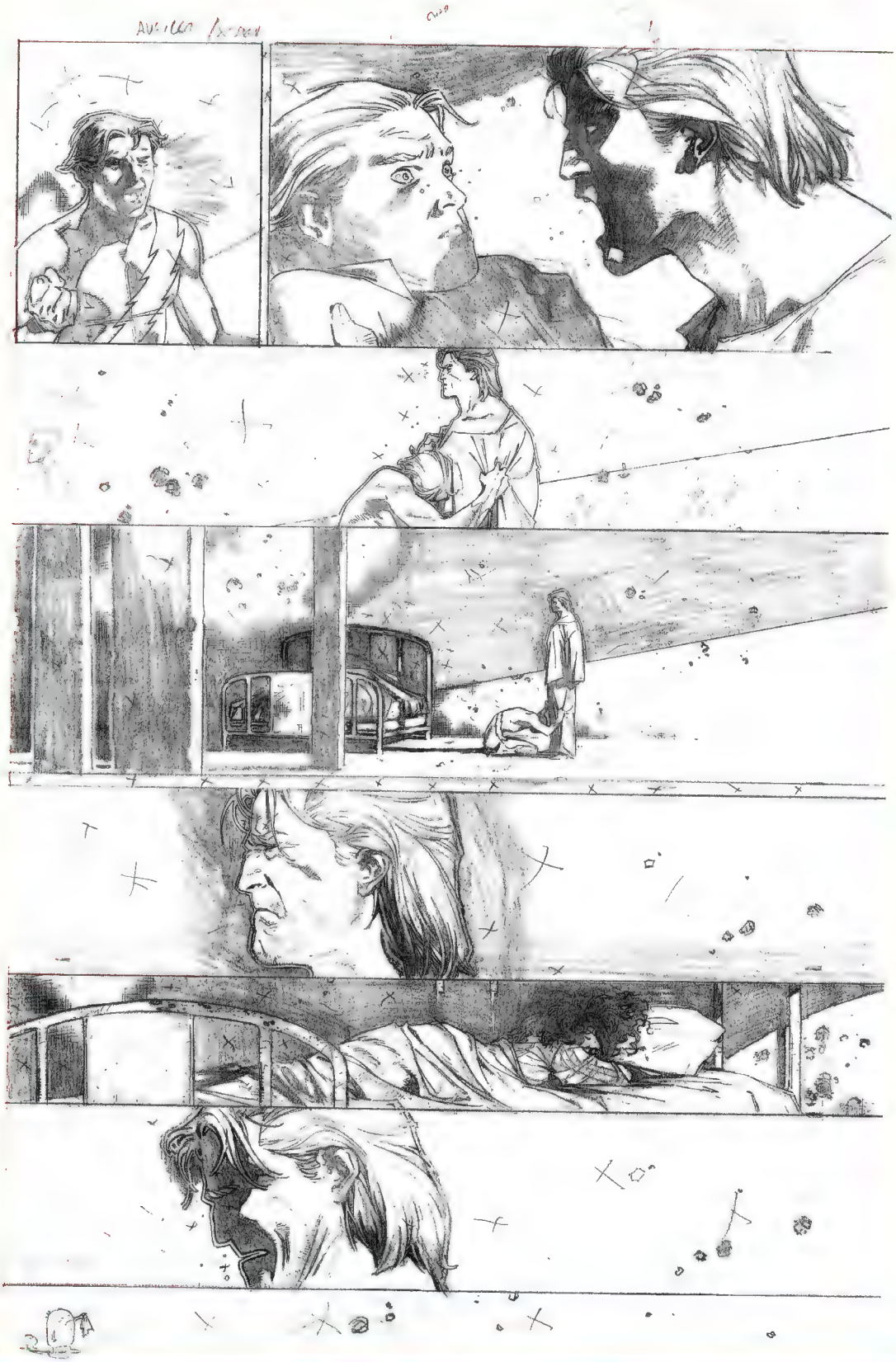

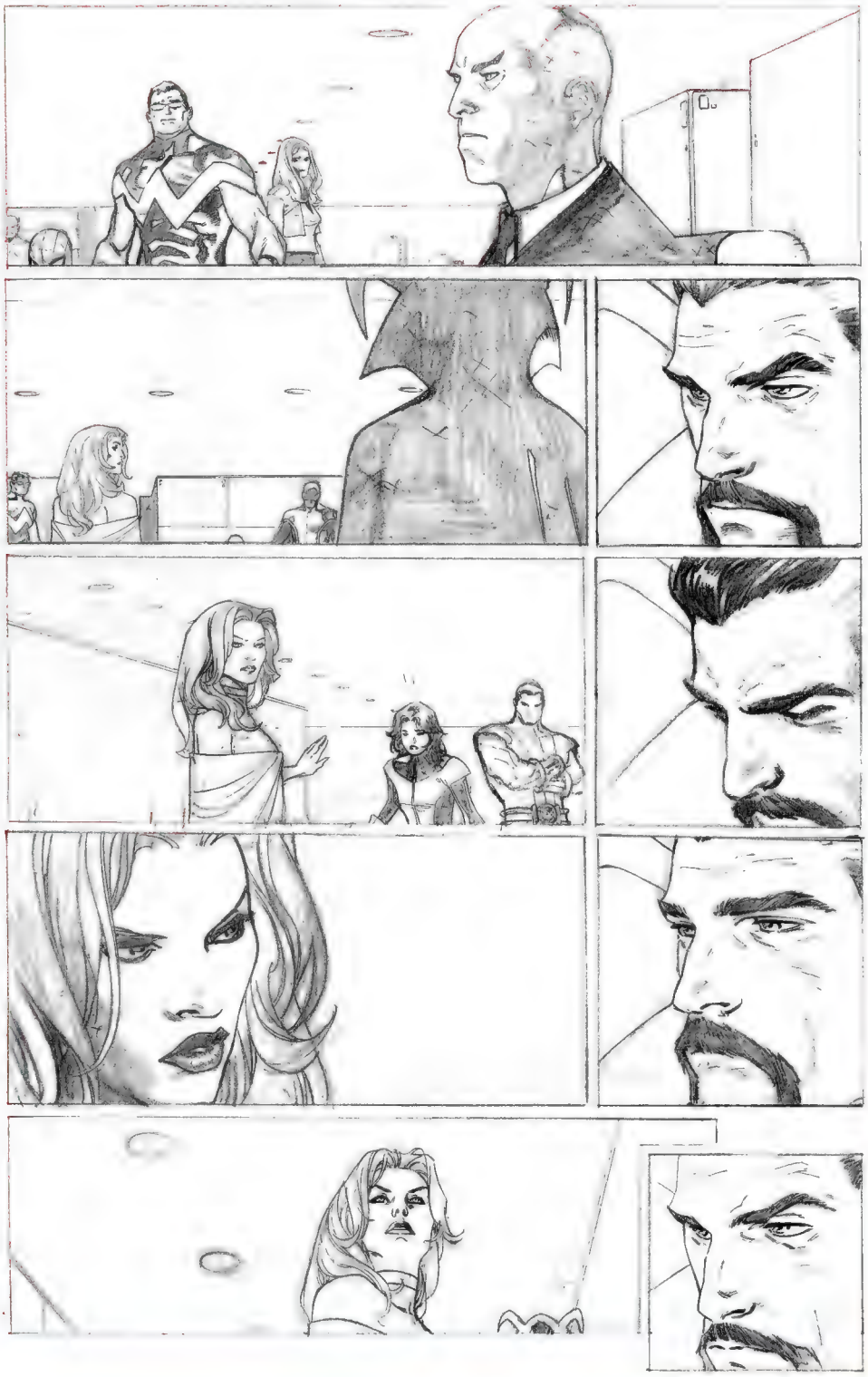

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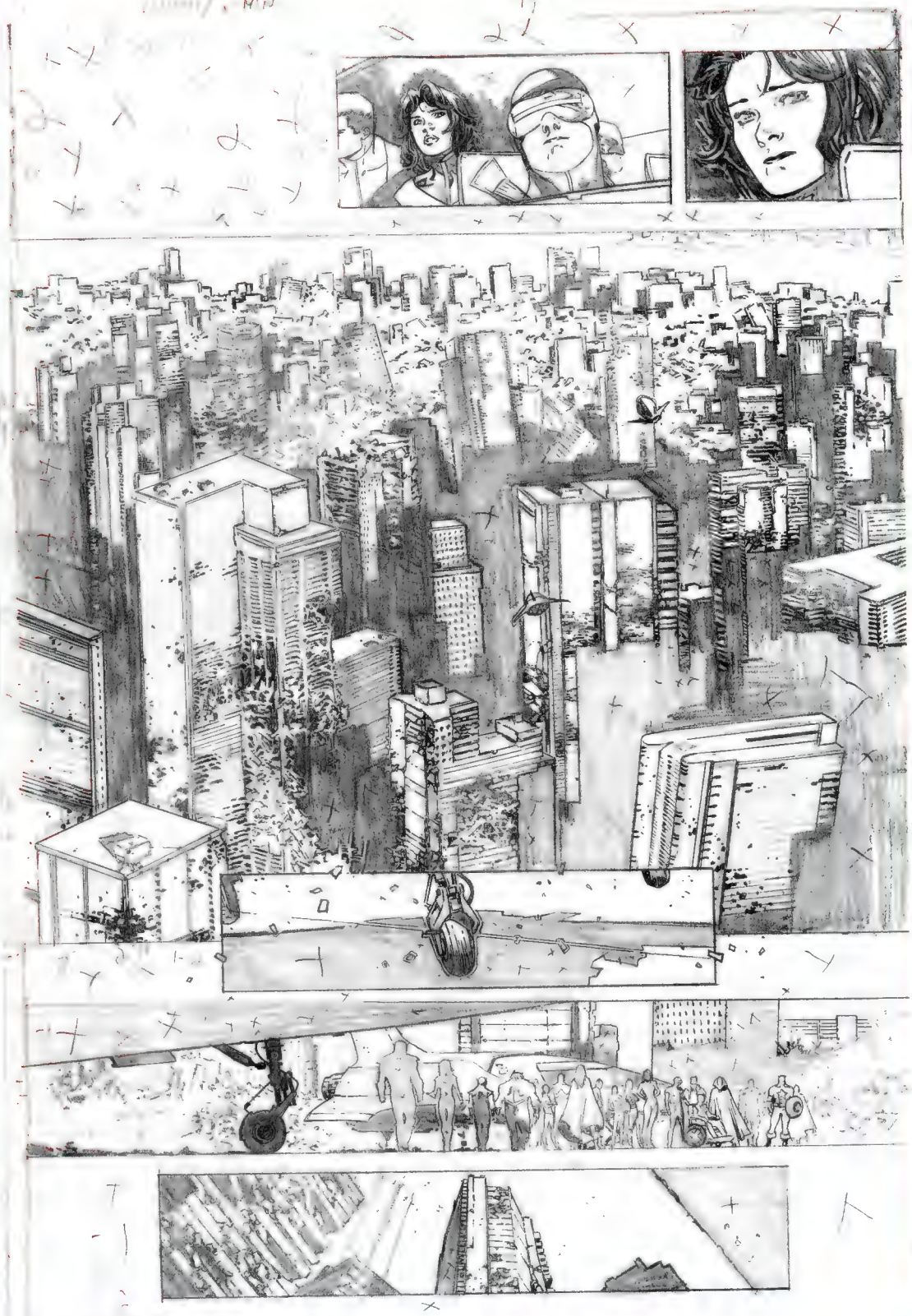
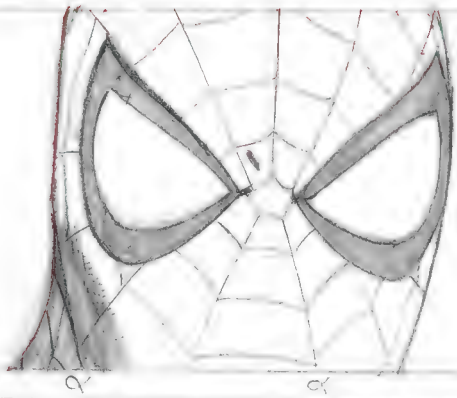
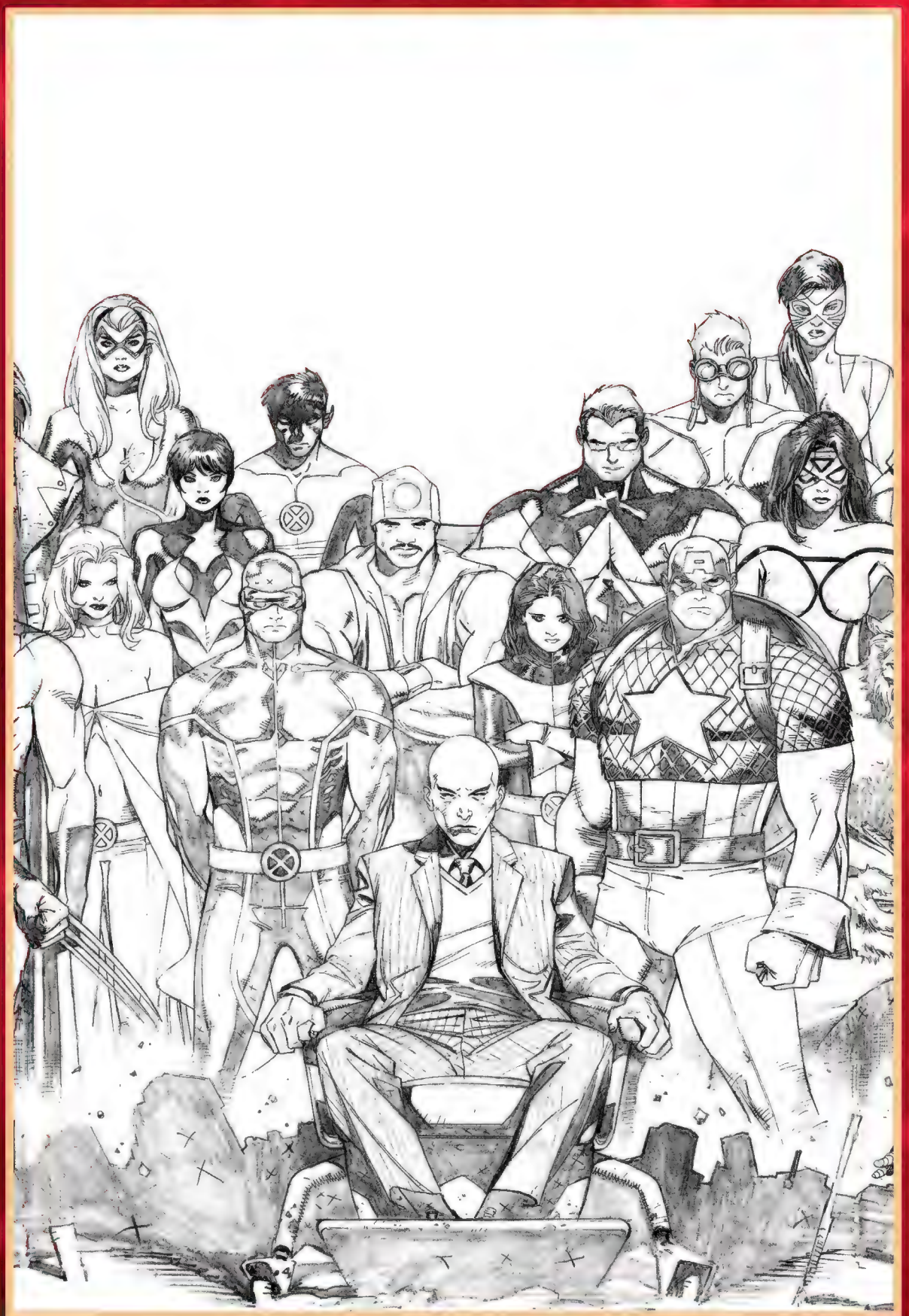
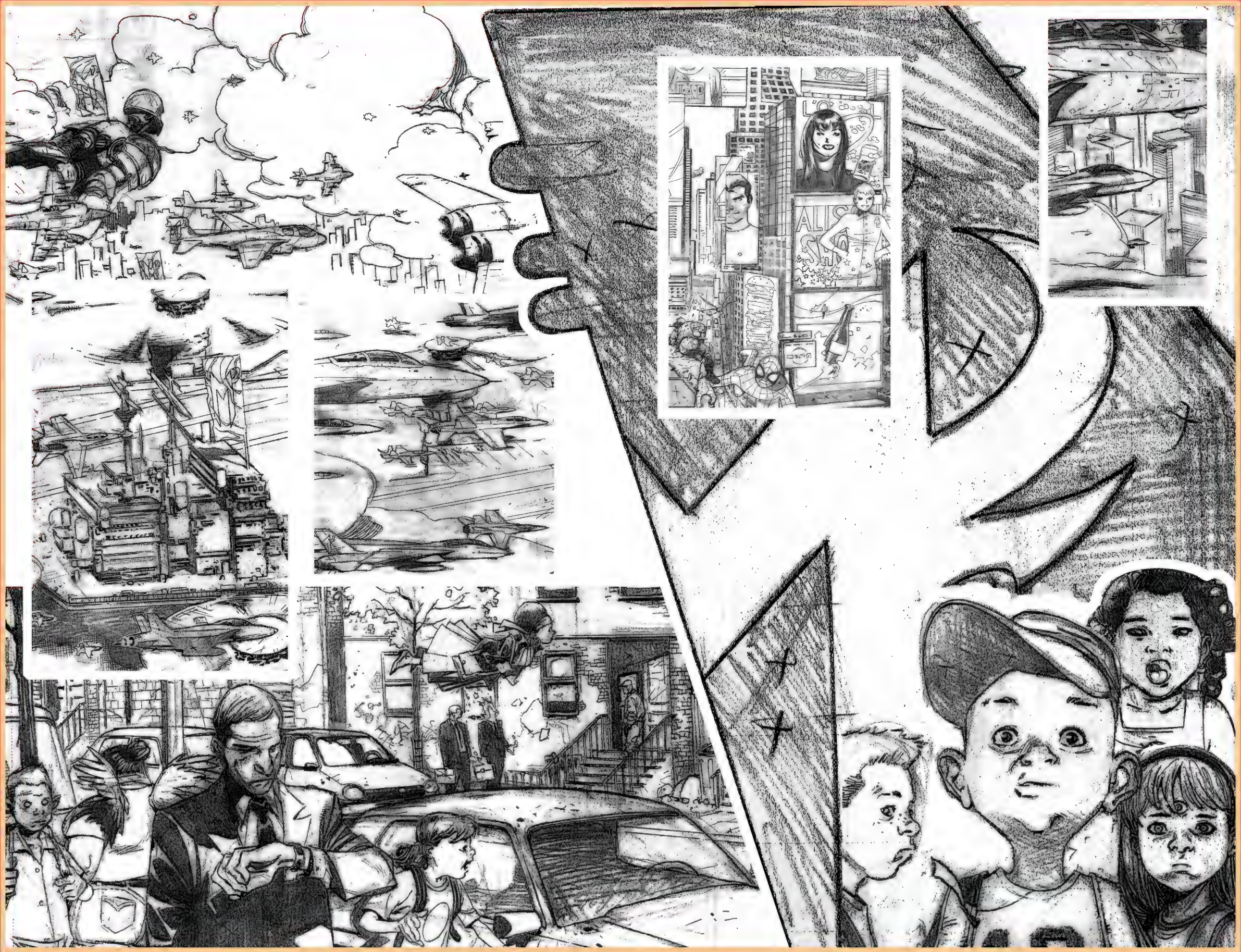




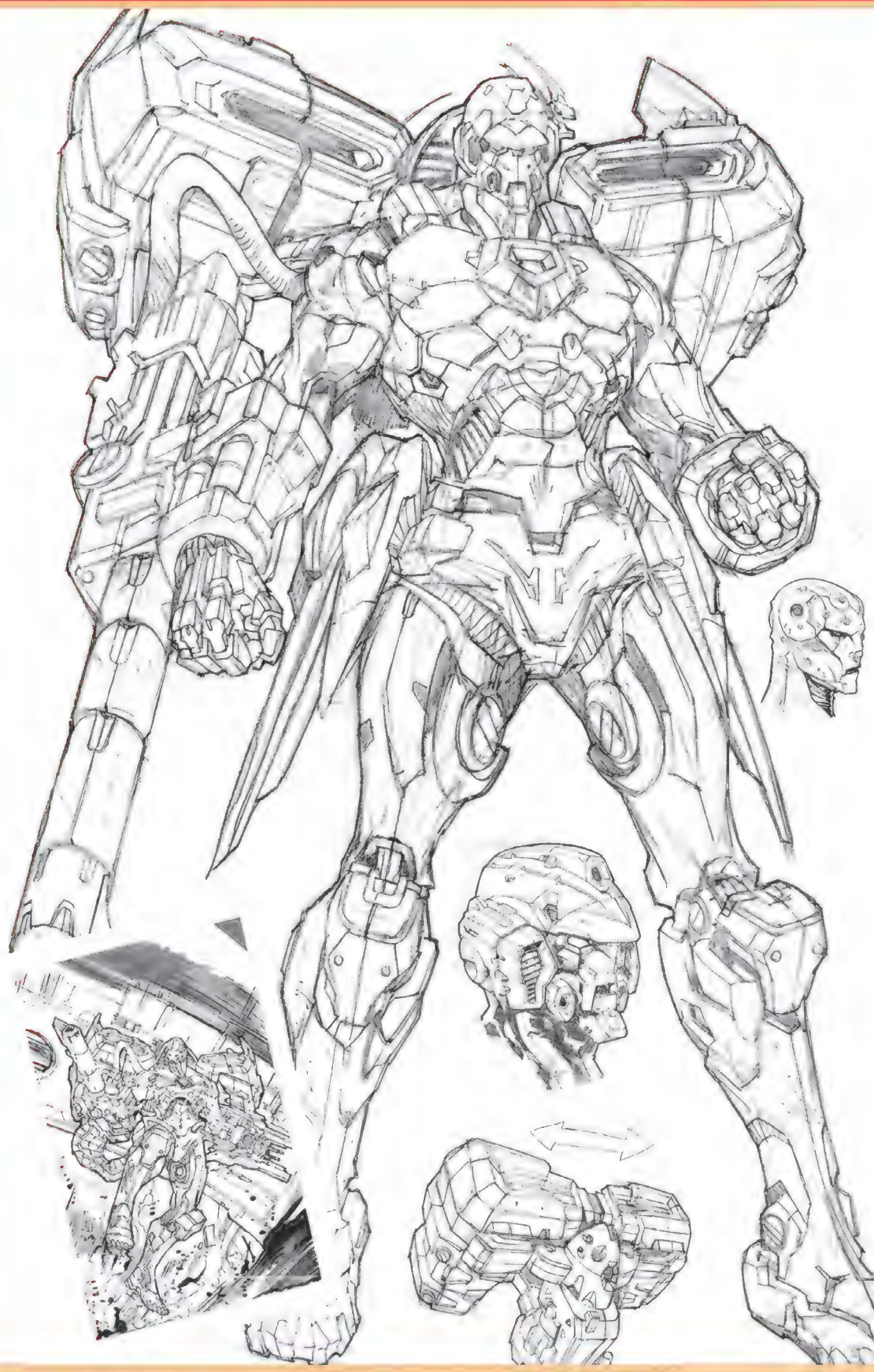
THE *HOUSE OF M* SKETCHBOOK FEATURED INTERIOR PENCILS AND CHARACTER DESIGNS FROM SEVERAL *HOUSE OF M* ISSUES AND TIE-INS.

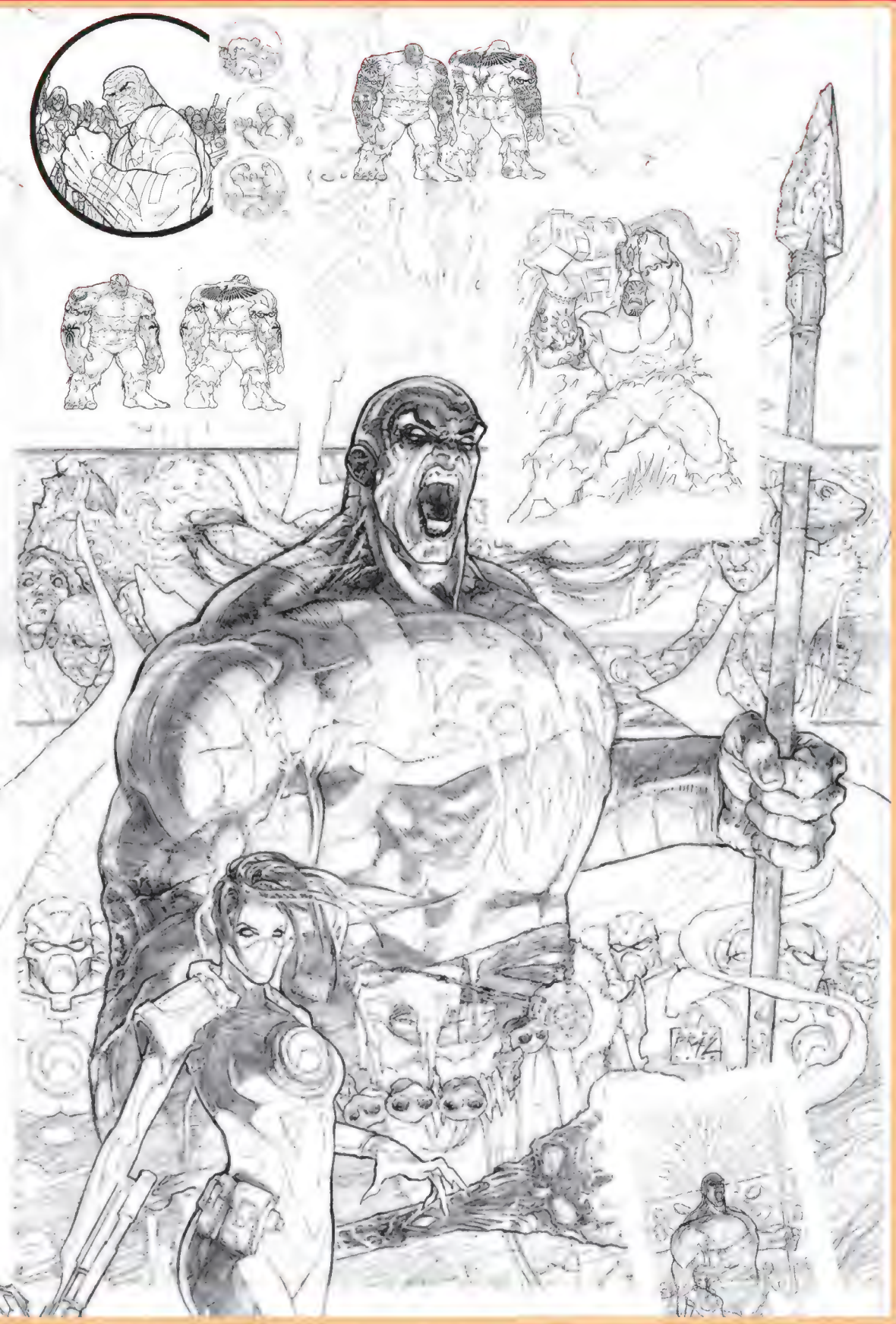




IRON MAN: HOUSE OF M CHARACTER DESIGNS BY PAT LEE

INCREDIBLE HULK CHARACTER DESIGNS BY
JORGE LUCAS AND COVER PENCILS BY ANDY BRASE

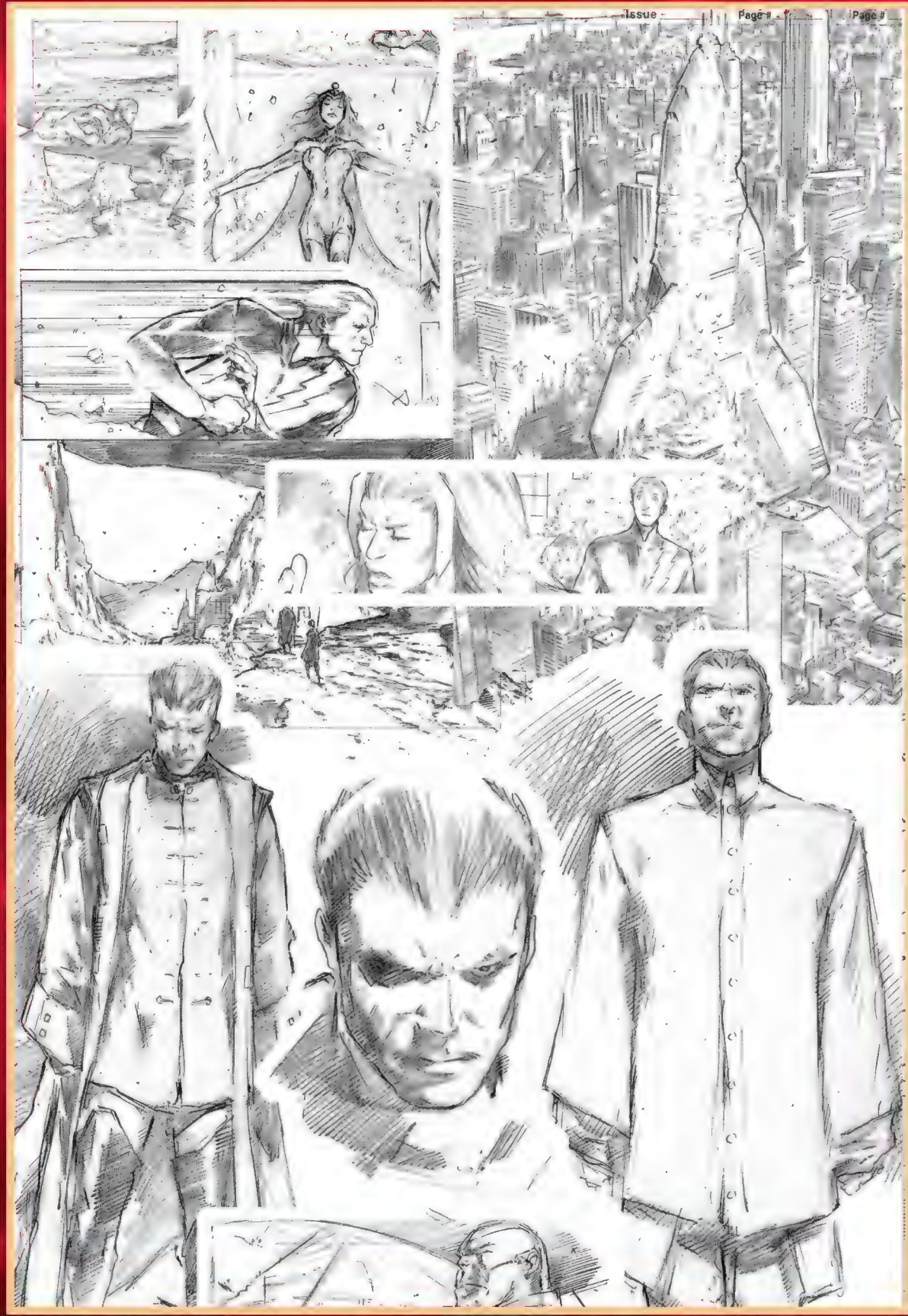




FANTASTIC FOUR: HOUSE OF M

CHARACTER DESIGNS AND COVER SKETCHES BY SCOT EATON

BLACK PANTHER #7 PENCILS BY TREVOR HAIRSINE



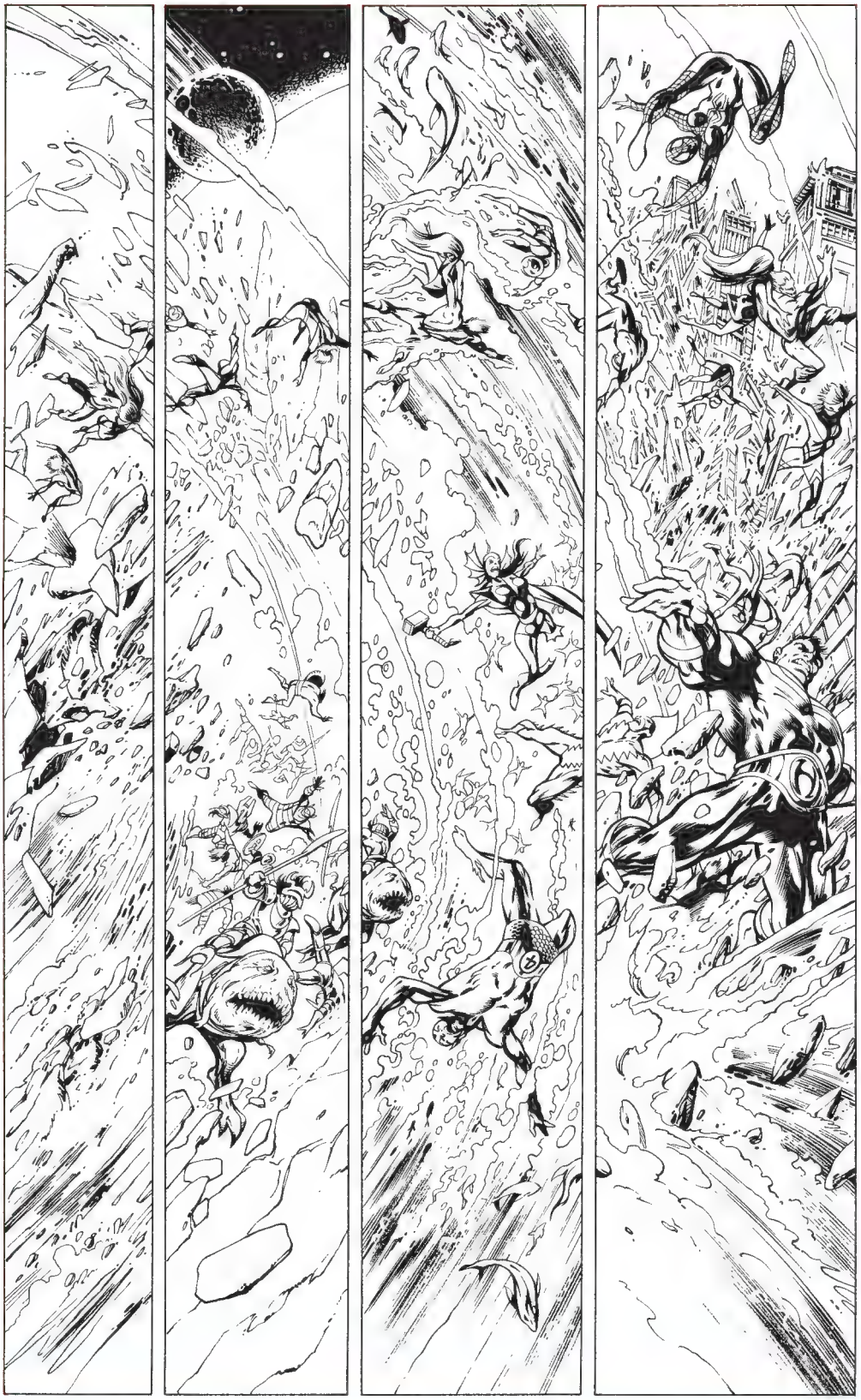
SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #1 PENCILS BY SALVADOR LARROCA

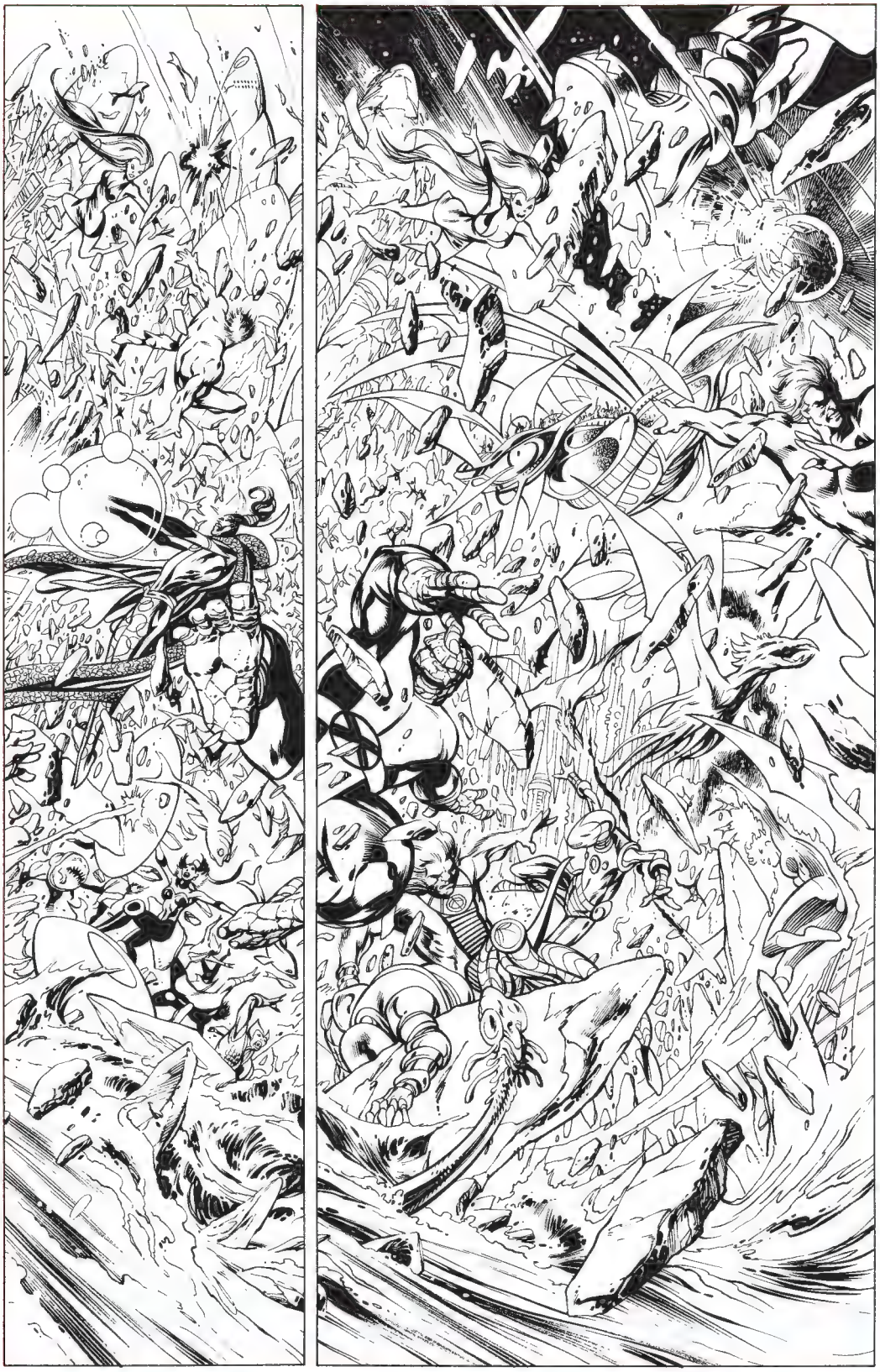
MS. MARVEL CHARACTER DESIGNS BY ROBERTO DE LA TORRE

THE PULSE #10 COVER PENCILS BY MIKE MAYHEW

EXILES #69, PAGES 1-2 ART BY PAUL PELLETIER & RICK MAGYAR

UNCANNY X-MEN #462, PAGES 7-8 ART BY ALAN DAVIS & MARK FARMER





UNCANNY X-MEN #463, PAGE 11 ART BY ALAN DAVIS & MARK FARMER

UNCANNY X-MEN #463, PAGE 19 ART BY ALAN DAVIS & MARK FARMER

UNCANNY X-MEN #463, PAGE 22 ART BY ALAN DAVIS & MARK FARMER

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